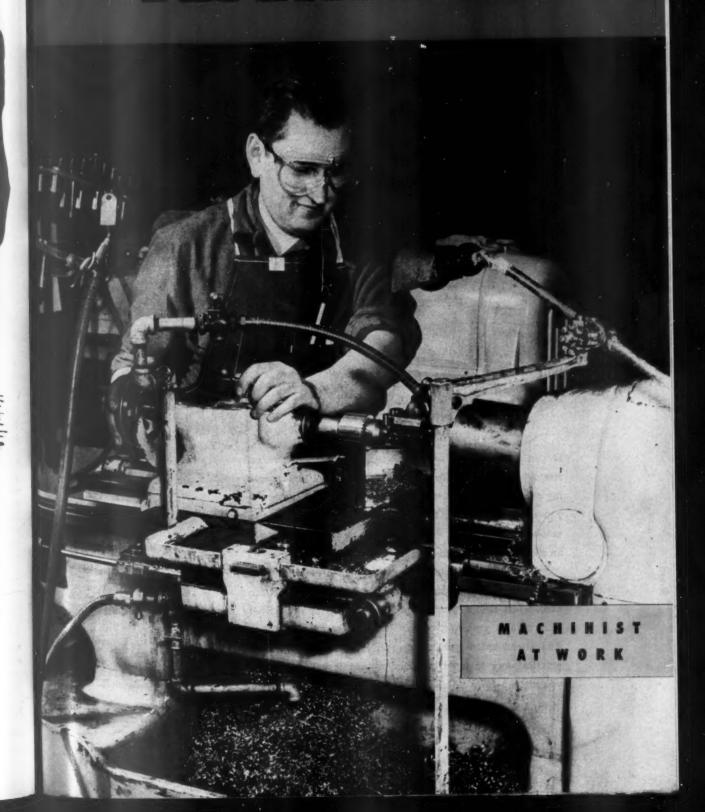
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GEORGE MEANY, Editor

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Common Sense

There cannot be a greater judgment befall a country than such a dreadful spirit of division as rends a government into two distinct people and makes them greater strangers and more averse to one another than if they were actually two different nations. The effects of such a division are pernicious to the last degree, not only with regard to those advantages which they give the common enemy but to those private evils which they produce in the heart of almost every particular person. This influence is very fatal both to men's morals and their understandings; it sinks the virtue of a nation, and not only so, but destroys even common sense.

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Man is subject to innumerable pains and sorrows by the very condition of humanity and yet, as if nature had not sown evils enough in life, we are continually adding grief to grief and aggravating the common calamity by our cruel treatment of one another. Half the misery of human life might be extinguished would men alleviate the general curse they lie under by mutual offices of compassion, benovolence and humanity. There is nothing, therefore, which we ought more to encourage in ourselves and others than that disposition of mind which in our language goes under the title of good nature.

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Liberty should reach every individual of a people, as they all share one common nature. If it only spreads among particular branches, there had better be none at all, since such a liberty only aggravates the misfortune of those who are deprived of it, by setting before them a disagreeable subject of comparisor.

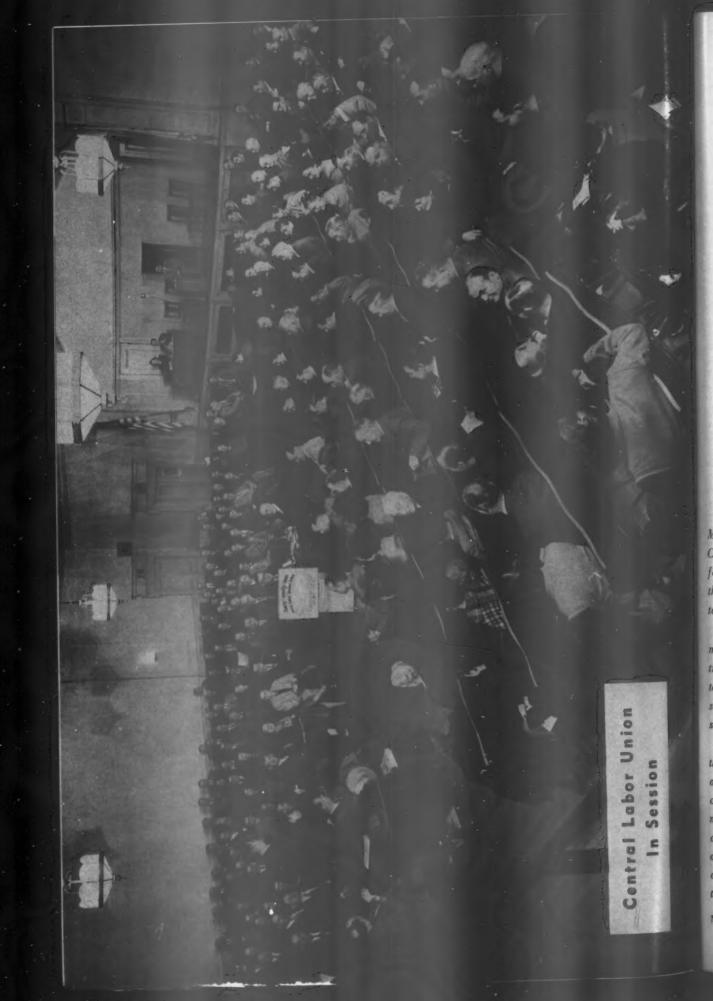
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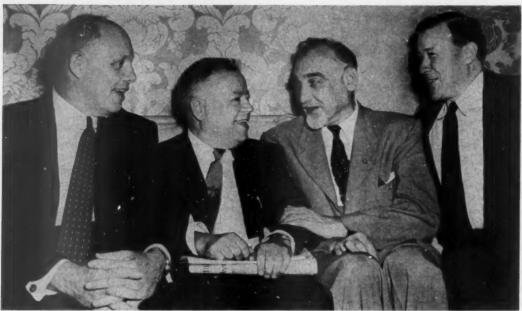
Though we seem grieved at the shortness of life in general, we are wishing every period of it at an end. The minor longs to be at age, then to be a man of business, then to make up an estate, then to arrive at honors, then to retire. Thus, although the whole of life is allowed by everyone to be short, the several divisions of it appear long and tedious.

Joseph Addison.

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This picture was snapped after the fruitful meeting of the Joint Unity Committee. From left, A. F. of L. President Meany, David Dubinsky, Jacob Potofsky and C.I.O. President Reuther

PROGRESS IS MADE ON LABOR UNITY

MERGER of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations into a single labor federation before the end of next year was the goal set by the Joint Unity Committee at its October 15 meeting in Washington.

After the meeting, next at

Members of the Joint Unity Committee were enthusiastic and optimistic over the prospects of early action toward labor peace. At the conclusion of their meeting they issued this statement:

"It is the unanimous decision of this Joint Committee of the A. F. of L. and C.I.O. to create a single trade union center in America through the process of merger which will preserve the integrity of each affiliated national and international union. Further, that the presidents of the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O. are authorized to appoint a joint subcommittee to draft a detailed plan to achieve this objective and then report its recommendations to this committee at its next meeting."

After the meeting, next steps were talked over by James Carey (left) and William F. Schnitzler, the secretaries, respectively, of the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. In lower picture, also made after the committee's session, leaders thinking about labor unity are O. A. Knight (left) and A. J. Hayes, the presidents, respectively, of C.I.O. Oil Workers and A. F. of L. Machinists





THESE THINGS WE ADVOCATE

By WILLIAM F. SCHNITZLER

Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

HERE are those who say that labor is essentially a protest movement—crying out against injustices, inequities and wrongs. But the American Federation of Labor has always been far more than just an instrument of protest.

The A. F. of L. could never have survived for more than seventy years, nor could it have grown to its present stature, on a platform of opposition alone. We have progressed because we have coupled our protests with programs for positive action, because we have had something better to offer to workers and to the public—something that met the needs and the aspirations of the people and the practical requirements of our times.

The working people of America know what their needs are. They know what they want and what they have a right to demand. Secretary Wilson to the contrary notwithstanding, they wear no leash and they will not be muzzled—nor will they rest content with a diet of second-rate slogans and second-best statistics.

They want to go forward each year toward a better life. They want decent homes to live in, better schools for their children and better medical care for their families. They want a higher minimum wage for their sweated brothers. They want more and better opportunities to earn a decent living—without having to break their ties with their home communities, uproot their families and travel in blind search of jobs that do not exist. They want decent standards of insurance against the hazard of unemployment and a more effective central employment service.

The working people of America demand fair play from their government and an even break in their relations with their employers, without the intervention of a hostile, vindictive agency in denial of their rights as free citizens. They want a stronger, a more secure and a more prosperous America, exercising its role of leadership in a responsible and non-partisan

manner as the foremost of the free nations of the world.

These pressing needs, these legitimate desires and these just demands constitute the heart of the program of the American Federation of Labor.

All of our efforts are dedicated to

In the pursuit of these objectives we have less to fear from our adversaries than from our own default. In the long run our progress will depend not upon what they may do or fail to do but upon what we do or fail to do in behalf of our ideals. The forces of reaction, intolerance and repression are always present, but they cannot long prevail over the human spirit in action.

If we build our house soundly, if we keep it strong, united and clean, if we develop and exert its full potential, we need have no doubt about the future. Ten million Americans—united, determined and active in the cause of justice—cannot be defeated by any hostile force that exists in this country today.

The most serious threat we face is the danger of self-defeat, through our own complacency, division or neglect. The record will support that proposition. It will show, I have no doubt, that we have lost more organizing campaigns through family quarrels, internal strife and disunity than through all of the attacks of union-busting employers. Our efforts to reward the friends and defeat the enemies of labor at the polls have suffered far more from the failure of our members to register and vote than from all of the millions spent by the forces of entrenched wealth in behalf of their favored candidates.

And nothing gives more aid and comfort to the enemies of labor and of the public interest, in their drive for total power, than some scandal or abuse on the part of a trade union official that can be spread across the front pages of the nation and advertised falsely as representative of the whole.

It is both the burden and the pride of the trade union movement that few, if any, organized groups are measured against a more exacting set of standards or exposed to a more critical scrutiny by persons and groups outside its ranks. Examples of human failure or fault that, in the case of other groups, would be attributed quite properly to the weaknesses of



At Cement Workers' convention, A. F. of L. Secretary Schnitzler was snapped with Felix Jones (center) and William Schoenberg

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individuals are all too often played up as an indication of a more general guilt, shared by the whole of labor.

The greater good that we accomplish is seldom widely publicized or accepted as the norm. Occasional and exceptional failings, on the other hand, provide grist for the mills of innumerable editorials, articles and acts of Congress.

This is a constant challenge to every trade unionist, and our response must be equal to the test. The first duty of every person who has the honor to represent labor in any capacity is the preservation of the integrity of the trade union movement. As our ideals are high, so must our standards of conduct be.

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Any element of corruption in our structure—no matter how isolated—reflects upon the entire trade union movement. It places new ammuni-

tion in the hands of the enemies of labor, to be used against all of labor. The entire labor movement, therefore—including every working, voting member—must share the responsibility for the removal of such elements, wherever or whenever they may appear.

THE good name of the American Federation of Labor is a priceless asset to the millions of honest working men and women who comprise its membership. No one has the right to abuse it or to use it lightly for selfish personal ends. We cannot afford to risk it through the easy toleration of rogues or renegades in positions of trust and honor. Those who would betray labor from within are as much the enemies of labor as those who attack it from without, and they deserve no more at labor's hands. The

American Federation of Labor has served notice that such individuals will find no sanctuary within the house of labor.

Against those who hold uppermost the rights of property, the supremacy of states and the sovereignty of nations, we stand in defense of human rights, the supremacy of the people and the sovereignty of man. We are loyal to no party except the human party. We place ourselves in opposition to no group except those who place themselves in opposition to the forward progress of the human race.

We are not attracted by the lure of distant visions. We are not bound in the straitjacket of abstract theory or rigid doctrine. We are practical people, seeking to translate practical aims into present fact.

We believe in building the future today.

Bias Is Unjust and Unsound

A Stitch in Time Can Serve All

By MATTHEW WOLL

First Vice-President, American Federation of Labor

Prejudice is the child of ignorance.

—William Hazlitt.

HERE are all kinds of reasons why race discrimination has no place and should not be tolerated in our country. For one thing, discrimination of any sort is the very opposite of democracy. The two just cannot mix. They cannot grow side by side. Discrimination in any form is a noxious weed that destroys the healthy growth of our land.

And when we speak of discrimination we do not speak of evil in the abstract. We have in mind, specifically, discrimination on the ground of race, color, creed, national origin or land of birth. Nor do we limit our fire against discrimination to any one particular field. We are uncompromisingly opposed to discrimination in the factories no less than in the schools, in the churches as well as in the armed forces, in the art galleries as well as in the houses of finance and industry.

As we see it, there is nothing more anti-American than discrimination for any of the above-mentioned grounds which are quite inclusive. The very greatness of our nation is rooted in the diversity of its origin. America has rightly and often been called a nation of nations. The greatest source of our country's strength is to be found in its unity of diversity—in the ability of our people, of various national and religious origins, to

work side by side and live together, all bound together by the ideals of human liberty.

But today there are additional factors making it extremely urgent for our country to speed up its progress in eliminating every vestige of racialism, every expression of discrimination in the economic, cultural and political life of the land.

The heaviest responsibilities of preserving world peace and protecting and promoting world freedom and social progress now rest upon the shoulders of the American people. Regardless of how powerful our military establishment may be, our country cannot discharge these responsibilities and serve the cause of human liberty and peace, now so gravely menaced by world communism and Soviet imperialism, unless we demonstrate through deeds that we are worthy of the world leadership which destiny has given us.

We cannot serve democracy abroad without serving and strengthening democracy at home. In Korea, in France, in Burma, at Iwo Jima we were all Americans. We had a common cause and faced a common foe. Today this foe is Communist totalitarianism. Today, after the defeat of the Nazi-Nipponese Axis, the Moscow-Peiping Axis is the gravest menace to human freedom inside every country and to world peace. We cannot defeat this enemy with its worldwide fifth column unless we constant-

ly improve our economic and social relations in every free land. The Communist demagogues are ever on the alert to exploit every mistake, every shortcoming and every weakness in our socio-economic fabric, in our body politic. We must avoid putting such dangerous weapons in the hands of the enemy.

Moreover, we will have to muster every bit of our skill and talent, every ounce of our strength if we are to fulfill effectively our national and human role at this critical hour in the life of man. We cannot and dare not squander any of our human resources, our most precious resources, to the idol of race prejudice, to the obnoxious and inhuman evil of discrimination. We can do so only if we want to court catastrophe.

America has only six per cent of the world's population. But our burdens, responsibilities and duties far exceed this proportion. Moscow and Peiping have grabbed control over and have under their yoke about one billion people. Hundreds of millions of other people are still under the blinding spell of neutralism. Only if we work and strive together as one, without discrimination because of color, creed or national origin, will our country be able to survive, let alone thrive, and lead mankind in triumph over the Communist plague and Soviet peril. Secretary of Labor Mitchell hit the nail on the head when he told the National Urban League that the costs of discrimination "are not only in the loss of manpower but in the loss of national morale and character."

WITHOUT equality of economic opportunity, democracy and equality before the law cannot survive. The strength of our nation lies in welding the two types of equality. The difficulties and conflicts in our nation arise out of any gaps or chasms that might develop between the two. To the extent that the American people enlarge the content and enrich the meaning of equality in political relations and equality of economic opportunity, to the extent that we reduce to a minimum any gap between these equalities, to the extent that we combine achievements in both respects, to

that extent will our country be able to set an example to stir and strengthen not only our own nation but also the entire liberty-loving world.

Yes, we are far from perfect. Yes, we have many shortcomings and weaknesses to overcome. But if we face our shortcomings frankly and meet our difficulties with full faith in our democratic ideals, we have nothing to fear.

Let us not hide under our national carpet the seamy side of our society. Let us rather mend. A stitch in time can serve all of us a lot.

The recent Supreme Court decision on segregation in the schools, the redoubled energy with which American labor is working to uproot every vestige of discrimination, the increasing consciousness and awareness of the American people in respect to their new world role and the responsibilities it entails are all guarantees that, slowly but surely, the United States will eliminate the unjust and unsound in our society.

Let us all work together, patiently and determinedly, for the attainment of this great goal.

Collective Bargaining Developments

established by unions through negotiation with employers "are increasingly being broadened to provide for medical care in addition to the now-standard hospitalization and surgical coverage," says Research Report, monthly publication issued by the Department of Research, American Federation of Labor.

Research Report for October declares the expansion is being stimulated by two factors.

"One is the growing awareness of the great gap left in health benefit programs by the failure to meet needs for doctors' care, particularly since doctors' bills normally are the single largest expense arising out of illness," the publication says. "This is repeatedly being driven home by the many instances in which union members have been confronted with staggering doctors' bills not covered by existing programs limited to hospitalization and surgical provisions.

"The other factor is the favorable experience under the examples set by the increasing number of unions which successfuly have negotiated a medical care plan and have demonstrated that it is feasible and reward-

"The marked trend toward this widening of health programs to provide for medical needs has taken two broad courses: (1) the negotiation of benefit plans which reimburse the worker a fixed amount for each doctor's visit and (2) the negotiation of plans for direct medical service, under which the worker is provided with necessary medical examination and treatment rather than with cash payments.

"The American Federation of Labor's 1954 convention has recom-

I know of no agency that is more competent to be helpful in carrying out the humanitarian purposes of poet and philosopher for human justice and human freedom than the much-misunderstood and much-misrepresented organized labor movement.

-Samuel Gompers.

mended that wherever possible unions should seek to provide medical protection through direct medical service plans rather than through cash benefit plans.

"As yet, benefit plans are more common, largely because they can more easily be arranged. Group benefit policies can readily be purchased from insurance companies, but facilities for providing actual medical service on a prepaid group basis are still not available in most communities.

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"Nevertheless, the notable advantages of service arrangements are leading to their rapid growth. The success of pioneering unions with such plans has been inducing more and more unions to explore them, to use and support existing group service plans and even, where necessary, to develop medical service facilities of their own, particularly health centers with medical staffs to provide a variety of services. It is noteworthy, too, that special union emphasis is being directed also toward the winning of medical coverage for the entire family, rather than the worker alone, since family needs account for the major part of medical bills."

Building Trades Serve the Nation

By HARRY J. HAGEN

Vice-President, Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union

HE building trades unions have had a salutary effect on the American building industry. Today, as a result of the efforts of the building trades unions of the American Federation of Labor, we have highly trained and skilled building mechanics, with both technical and practical experience essential to the construction of present-day homes and buildings, instead of the handyman or jack-of-all-trades of years ago who could do many things fairly well but was perfect in none.

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Today we live in an age of specialization. This applies to the building trades as to anything else. Each mechanic confines his activities to his own craft and class of work.

The workers in the various segments of the industry have their own unions, with their own apprentice training systems, their own rules and regulations and their own minimum requirements of skill and qualification for acceptance into membership.

In most instances present-day unionized building mechanics have had several years of technical training under their union's supervision, absorbing the technical end of their trade while at the same time they were receiving practical on-the-job training essential to the highly skilled mechanic.

The A. F. of L.'s building trades unions require an apprentice to prove that he has gained technical and practical experience before he is accepted as a journeyman. Almost every union in the building trades requires the apprentice to take and pass an examination in order to be admitted as a full-fledged journeyman member.

The unions contribute their years of experience in training the apprentices. Without these apprentice training programs, safe, efficient and economical construction would be impossible. The building trades furnish mechanics who properly interpret plans and specifications and use and install materials as intended. The result is the most economical construc-



MR. HAGEN

tion possible—consistent with highgrade practices and public safety.

An important function of the building trades unions is having available qualified mechanics to man jobs anywhere in the nation. There is a system of national cooperation in the building trades which provides an excellent reservoir of skilled craftsmen on a national basis. This reserve of skilled workers made possible the construction during wartime, on short notice, of plants, airfields and other essential installations.

Practically all large commercial and government buildings in and about the cities of our nation are erected by union labor. Even in rural areas, the larger structures, such as schools, theaters, churches and factories, are also built by union labor.

Since the unions' construction rules apply, and these are equal or superior to the requirements set forth in building codes, good and safe construction is assured. Union members don't permit the would-be chiseling builder to carry out his scheme to put up substandard buildings. The un-

ions assure sound construction and protect the investor and the purchaser against the shoddy practices of speculative builders.

The building trades unions are interested in good construction not only for reasons of safety but also because they have a natural desire to safeguard their respective lines of work. They know that a very quick way to bring about a curtailment or elimination of their work and the adoption of other materials and labor would be by carelessness, inferior work and excessive costs. Therefore, the unions strive constantly to establish rules and regulations which simultaneously provide safe and economical construction and meet with the approval of engineers, architects, builders, contractors and the public.

In wartime or times of national alarm, union labor builds the war plants that turn out the urgently needed munitions of war. During actual war the Seabees, a military branch consisting of building trades workers, construct the airfields, roads, docks, training centers, housing, etc., in the war zones. The Seabees run the bulldozers, build the bridges and perform other duties that require highly skilled mechanics. For example, it was the Seabees who built the pontoons for the Normandy landing in World War II.

The members of the building trades unions are one of the most important segments of our society. Highly skilled, they are not only an asset to the building industry but to the national economy as well.

Where building is plentiful, the wages paid out to mechanics and others in allied industries trickle down the line to the smallest shopkeeper, thus assuring prosperous times. When there is a dearth of building, just the opposite is true.

When we take everything into consideration, it seems apparent that the A. F. of L.'s building trades unions have done a marvelous job for the industry and for our nation.

How Is Labor Treated in Communist China?

By RICHARD DEVERALL

A. F. of L. Representative in Asia

OST industrial and other enterprise in Red China is either state enterprise or state-capi-Accordingly, the talist enterprise. document entitled "Labor Regulations for State-Operated Enterprises," which was promulgated recently by the Government Administrative Council of China's Communist regime, is an important one. It will be of particular interest to trade unionists in the free world. "Startling" is a very mild adjective to apply to the antilabor regulations which have been imposed by the rulers of Communist China.

As proclaimed in the official Peiping newspaper, Jen Min Jih Pao, the regulations are based on the concept that there is neither collective bargaining nor free trade unionism in Red China. The duty of the worker is "to observe labor discipline."

Article 8 of the old "Common Program" made labor discipline a legal duty. The new constitution of Red China has made violation of labor discipline a matter for the "People's Court."

The new regulations lashing the workers of Red China to the iron-disciplined rules of the state consist of twenty-four articles. Just to review them briefly is to paint a picture of a thoroughly militarized police state which looks upon the workers as mere tools or instruments in carrying out the plans of the state.

Chapter I of the new regulations contains six articles. These cover rules of employment, transfer and dis-

Article 1, for example, makes it illegal to employ a worker who does not have the government "work book"

in which is inscribed his previous employment, his education and police records. This is a carbon copy of the "work book" used by the Japanese militarists when they were on the China mainland.

Article 3 provides that there can be no bargaining as to wages. The wages are fixed according to standards laid down by the Communist authorities.

Article 4 states coldly, "No worker or staff member should suspend work or be transferred without the approval of the chief or manager of the factory," and it adds, ominously, "Otherwise it will be considered a breach of labor discipline." And in Red China, a so-called breach of labor discipline is a matter for a People's Court and criminal prosecution.

Article 5 provides that no worker can be transferred or discharged arbitrarily, but he is also told by the new regulations that, if he doesn't agree, his only right is to "complain to the trade union under which he comes." As the trade unions are set up by law and are controlled absolutely by the Communist Party, the worker's so-called right of complaint is no right at all.

Chapter II contains only two articles, but they are the core of the antilabor regulations. For example, Article 7 states that the duty of plant management is "to organize the workers," to assign work correctly so that there can be no interruption of production, to keep machinery in order, to "tighten labor discipline," to drive the Stakhanovite campaigns forward and to observe all labor law.

All managers in Red China who fail to obey these regulations are, like the workers, hauled before a People's Court. One fine sample of this came to light when some members of the British Labor Party mission touring Red China a few weeks ago visited a former British coal mine. The manager of the mine had just been shot "for violation of discipline."

Article 8 imposes severe duties on the workers. It is stated that they must be "serious and responsible," they must observe labor discipline (i.e., work without the slightest interruption), they must "observe correctly the working hours, apply the entire working period to production, do nothing unrelated to production, engage in no idle talk, take no idle walks, not quarrel and not interfere in the work of others." The same article requires that they "keep all secrets of industrial and mining enterprise," fulfill and overfulfill the production targets decreed by the Peking regime, follow factory leadership absolutely and "turn out no rejects."

Obviously, this article means that any worker who goes to the toilet, smokes, talks for a few seconds to a fellow worker or who by accident turns out a defective article of work can be summarily hauled off to a People's Court for trial and sentence to anything from loss of wages to incarceration in a corrective labor camp.

The same regulations make it a duty to observe safety measures, to protect state property, to clean up the working place every day and finish the assigned work each day on time. In no civilized country in the world are such rigorous duties imposed on workers by the state under threat of penal sanction.

Chapter III of the regulations contains six articles regarding hours of labor. Article 9 notes that hours of labor are unilaterally fixed by factory management. Again there is no collective bargaining. Article 10 provides that workers should be notified when to start and stop work "generally by sirens, bells or other signals." Article 11 provides minute instructions for checking in and out of the workplace, while Article 12 provides that a worker must remain working at his bench until the man on the next shift arrives.

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Article 13, under threat of penal sanction, forbids any stoppage of work for chatter or social activities, calling any meetings "concerning social work," payment of wages or other acts during working hours, and

engaging workers or staff "in any activities which interfere with the regular work." Article 14 provides that, if a worker is really unfit physically for work, he should not work!

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Chapter IV outlines the penal provisions which can be invoked for any infraction of the labor discipline regulations. In minor cases of breaches of labor discipline, Article 15 provides punishment in the form of verbal or written warning, giving of demerits or transfer to work paying lower wages. Article 16 provides that more serious cases shall be "sent to the court for legal sanction." Article 17 provides punishment of discharge for "late arrival or early departure without good reason, or playing around or sitting idle during working hours."

Article 18 provides that no one should be punished until he has been given a chance to explain. If management does not punish workers properly, this article explains, then the manager goes before a People's Court. Article 19 provides that punishment must be "educational and social," by which they mean that guilty workers must appear before an after-hours shop meeting and criticize their own conduct, followed by "mass criticism" of their fellow workers.

Article 21 provides that if discipline is poor and the worker causes loss of tools or equipment or product, the management of the factory can charge him for the loss, deducting it from his pay but not deducting more than 30 per cent of his pay each month "until it is completely paid up."

Article 22 provides that workers can appeal against such punishment, "but the penalty still holds pending the decision of the upper level." Article 23 provides that managers of factories who permit breaches of labor discipline must go before a People's Court.

Article 24, the last item of the regulations, simply says that "the labor regulations * * * should be put up in a conspicuous place" in the factory or office.

It is notable that when the British Labor Party mission to Red China arrived in Japan early in September, there was extreme reluctance to discuss working conditions in Red China. Members of the mission refused point-blank to discuss trade unionism in Red China.

The regulations tell why. No hon-

est person can defend the cruel and arbitrary labor regulations issued by Red China's Government Administrative Council. The regulations preclude any legitimate trade union activity in Red China. There is no freedom of movement for the worker. He cannot protest or strike against anti-human "labor discipline." He has but one duty, and that is to work hard, not to talk, not to smoke, and to take care of his natural functions

after working hours. And always over his head is the threat of being sent to a People's Court for violation of one or another article of the new anti-labor regulations issued by Mao's totalitarian government.

No British, Japanese or American worker would tolerate such conditions. But in Red China, even if the workers do not like it, they must obey.

Obey, maintain labor discipline or face the People's Court.

PROGRESS IN ITALY

By GIULIO PASTORE

General Secretary, Italian Confederation of Labor Unions (C.I.S.L.)

N A recent dispatch from Milan, a correspondent of the New York Times came to the conclusion that trade unionism in Italy is dominated by the Communist-ruled C.G.I.L. According to the analysis of Herbert Matthews, the correspondent, the democratic trade union forces in Italy are weak and lacking in leadership and nationwide organization. The facts indicate that one is justified in questioning Mr. Matthews' picture of the situation.

In 1947 the Christian Democratic, Social Democratic and Republican trade unionists who were then still within the C.G.I.L. accounted for a little more than 800,000 members. In November of 1951 our free trade union federation, C.I.S.L., at its first convention, represented 1,812,000 members. Since that convention, which was held at Naples, the membership of C.I.S.L. has increased, and by the time of our next convention we have no doubt that our membership will total well above the 2,000,000 mark.

It is difficult to understand why the statement should be made that C.I.S.L. is not a national organization. There is no province of Italy in which C.I.S.L. does not have tens of thousands of members.

In February of last year a survey of the 5,185 most important industrial establishments in the country showed the Communist-dominated C.G.I.L. with 11,300 members of factory committees and our C.I.S.L. with 8,834 members of these committees.

Distributed among all other labor organizations were only 959 other factory committee seats.

In the past two years there has been a continuing and most significant shift in favor of democratic trade unionism. The results of factory committee elections clearly show this trend. In elections from June 22 of 1952 to July 29 of 1954, contests involving 11,034 factory committee seats were waged in a total of 3,397 companies. In these elections the Communist organization lost 1,315 seats while our free trade union organization was picking up 1,275 seats.

Three major wage controversies in which most Italian workers have been involved in the last four years provide proof of the effectiveness of C.I.S.L. in defending the workers' interests and in puncturing the Communists' claims.

In 1950 and 1951 the C.G.I.L. was forced to go along with C.I.S.L. proposals concerning wage adjustments for all industrial workers. In 1952 our organization signed an agreement providing for increases in family allowances, and the C.G.I.L. was compelled to fall into line, although it had earlier put forth entirely different demands and conducted a series of completely unsuccessful strikes.

This year, in the face of strenuous opposition by the Communists, our democratic federation signed an agreement with Confindustria, the Italian manufacturers' association, which has brought benefits to Italian workers to- (Continued on Page 31)



Labor Unity

THE CAUSE of labor unity has now advanced to the stage of negotiating actual terms of a merger between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. While it does not pay to be overly optimistic in such matters, both sides have agreed to make a sincere effort to work out an acceptable merger plan within the coming year.

It was explicitly stated by the Joint Unity Committee that any merger plan must "preserve the integrity of each affiliated national and international union." This means that there will be no attempt to bargain away the rights or the jurisdiction of any individual union in the search for an over-all solution.

In fact, there is no disposition on either side to attempt to resolve in advance any of the multiple jurisdictional conflicts that now exist between unions affiliated with both groups. On the contrary, the effort of the Joint Unity Committee will be directed toward establishing workable machinery by which such conflicts may be resolved by the parties themselves after a merger is effectuated.

There are, of course, other tangible safeguards. When and if the Joint Unity Committee agrees on a merger plan, it will have to be submitted to conventions of both the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O. for ratification. Only after such ratification is obtained will it be possible to proceed with the final step—a joint convention to establish a united trade union center in America.

Meanwhile, the rights and jurisdiction of American Federation of Labor affiliates will be protected by the A. F. of L.-C.I.O. no-raiding agreement, now in effect, and by the A. F. of L.'s own Internal Disputes Plan, which will go into operation as soon as our unions sign it.

Division in the labor movement has been ex-

tremely costly—both in terms of organizational strife and in its weakening effect on the services unions render to their members. We are confident that labor unity, when and if it is cemented, will strengthen our movement tremendously and prove of inestimable benefit to the workers of America and to our nation as a whole. We intend, therefore, to do everything in our power to attain the great objective of unity within the coming year.

Wilson on Unemployment

attitude on unemployment is no less shocking even if we concede, without reservation, that he didn't actually mean to compare unemployed workers to dogs. According to his own version of his press conference remarks in Detroit, Mr. Wilson advised men who are out of work to move, with or without their families, and look for jobs in other cities. Just as casually, he said that the unemployment situation in Detroit should right itself when the new automobile models go into production, assuming that some of the jobless workers would "go back South when it gets a little cold."

This is just what the former president of General Motors said, without the slightest "distortion." It is the frank economic philosophy of a top-flight business executive who is now a member of the Cabinet in an Administration that is pledged to a policy of being fair to all Americans.

Under that philosophy a migratory existence for American workers, with seasonal unemployment, is considered normal and natural. Business accepts no social responsibility for the workers it hires. When these workers, trained in special skills, are forced in slack times to pick up odd jobs at lesser skills and at far lower pay, that's just their hard luck. When hundreds of thousands of workers are compelled to give up their homes, tear

up their family roots and sharply reduce their standard of living, it's just too bad.

La Paul Land

Fortunately, most thinking people today reject that philosophy. They know it is not only bad for the nation's workers but bad for business and bad for America when the national economy is impaired by chronic, floating unemployment running into the millions.

If Wilson had spoken as an individual business

tycoon, it could be dismissed as the attitude of a Nineteenth Century Bourbon. But when his attitude is reflected in the official policy of our government in an Administration which boasts of a "second-best" year and has failed to cope effectively with the unemployment problem, it becomes a matter of serious concern to every citizen who wants to keep America strong, prosperous and progressive.

Labor in Ohio's Capital City

By ROBERT W. GREER and ALBERT D. VESY

President and Executive Secretary, Respectively, Columbus (Ohio) Federation of Labor

THE trade unionists of Columbus, Ohio, maintain that the American Federation of Labor was organized in their city in December of 1886. True it is that five years earlier the Federation of Trades and Labor Unions had been organized in Pittsburgh. However, it was at Columbus that the present name was adopted, and it was at the 1886 convention held in our city that Samuel Gompers was elected president of the A. F. of L. This labor history is a source of pride to the trade unionists of Columbus.

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The central body, the Columbus Federation of Labor, was organized in 1907. We have felt the effects of boom and bust, but today we can boast of more than seventy local union affiliates. Organization continues and keeps pace with the city's growth.

Columbus is the capital of Ohio. Despite the fairly widespread notion that a capital city usually makes a poor industrial center, Columbus has made tremendous industrial progress in the last decade.

The building trades in Columbus are in a flourishing condition. A great deal of industrial construction has been taking place in recent years, and nearly all of it has been done by A. F. of L. craftsmen.

Columbus' central location and excellent transportation facilities make it a natural for distribution centers or branch factory locations. Some of the large corporations which have sensed this geographic advantage are North American Aviation, General Motors, Westinghouse, Goodyear, Goodrich and Sears Roebuck. All have large installations in Columbus. Many others are planning similar projects.

Public relations and active participation in civic affars have been the guiding influences in Federation activity. The central body has won the respect of leaders in all walks of life for its participation in the work of various community agencies and commissions.

Representatives of the Columbus Federation of Labor have done much in recent years to prove that organized labor represents a responsible segment of society and is more than willing to do its share in every project that will help to better our city. Many of the local union officers have followed this lead, and today in Columbus there is hardly a social or civic agency without one or more A. F. of L. men actively serving on its executive board or committee.

Nor has youth been neglected in this program of getting the message of organized labor across to the public. Ohio State University students attend meetings of the central body as well as of local unions. The students are encouraged to visit the Columbus Federation of Labor or any local union office on their own for information or just plain curiosity.

The central body has an attractive headquarters. We are proud of it. Presiding over the office is our personable, well-informed office secretary, Miss Alice Smith, who keeps things running smoothly and makes it possible for Executive Secretary Vesy to devote a major part of his time to the many meetings and functions he must attend in his official capacity.

Political-wise, we have labored to maintain a non-partisan policy through our local L.L.P.E. We have succeeded in getting several thousand new eligible voters to register and vote, which is just plain good citizenship; and we have kept out of the hot water that has beset some groups which have drunk too deeply of the well of partisanship.

Columbus is proud of its labor newspaper, The Labor Tribune. It is performing a very valuable service in disseminating labor information to the members of unions in Columbus and vicinity.

Despite its growth to metropolitan proportions, Columbus still retains most of the small-town charm that has distinguished it in the past. The city is a lively convention center because of its central location in that portion of the U.S. which contains over 80 per cent of the national population.

The phenomenal expansion of Columbus in the last ten years, most local trade unionists believe, is just a substantial start. We who are in the American Federation of Labor look forward to a proportionate growth of A. F. of L. influence, and we are ready to accept our share of the responsibilities as well as privileges.



Show of hands decided 1956 convention site. The delegates chose Seattle. Next year's convention will be held in Chicago

The A.F. of L. Conventi

CONTINUING THE DAY-TO-DAY LOS ANGELES REPORT



Labor unity progress is hailed; delegates hear L.L.P.E. leaders, act on defense, atomic energy; many committees make reports

The report of the Resolutions Committee held the attention of the convention at the session of Friday morning, September 24, after the appearance of President Eisenhower. Reuben G. Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor and secretary of the Resolutions Committee, was presenting the committee's report. A. F. of L. Vice-President Herman Winter was temporarily in the chair.

The Resolutions Committee reported on the important section of the Executive Council's Report dealing with national defense.

The committee said:

"Today's expenditures on national defense are at an annual rate of almost \$10,000,000,000 less than the rate a year ago. In view of this policy, we feel compelled to raise this difficult question: Are America's armed forces today sufficient to permit this great nation to fulfill its rightful commitments as the leader of the free world?

"While the size of the nation's

present defense program may seem impressive, it must be realized that at stake is the freedom of libertyloving people all over the globe from Korea and Southeast Asia to Germany, Greece and the Middle East. Are we prepared to measure up to this challenge?"

The committee warned that only actual fighting strength supported by the will of free people everywhere can

deter the Soviets.

"While this nation has maintained its superiority in atomic and nuclear weapons," said the report, "this must not create a false sense of security."

The committee called upon the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a special review of the nation's defense needs "to make certain that this nation is adequately prepared to fulfill its commitments throughout the globe."

The convention unanimously approved the Resolutions Committee's recommendation. The convention also reaffirmed the opposition of the American Federation of Labor to universal military training. The delegates said:

"The American Federation of Labor will naturally cooperate in any



The Bricklayers' delegation was led by President Harry C. Bates (right). An A. F. of L. Executive Council veteran, he was elected to another terr

genuine effort to improve the quality and standards of the nation's reserve forces. Any new proposal in this direction will be examined very closely. It is clear, however, that any proposal for U.M.T. could not be an efective instrument for improving the nation's security."

The convention next considered the report of the Resolutions Committee on the section of the Executive Council's Report pertaining to atomic energy. The committee's report reaffirmed the basic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor in regard to atomic energy.

"This new source of power," said the report, "has been the direct result of the investment, through taxes, of more than \$11,000,000,000 by the American people. It is thus the American people, not any individual or corporate enterprise, whose interest must remain paramount as this nation proceeds to harness the atom

for electric energy.

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"This does not mean that the door must be closed to private commercial development of the atom. On the contrary, we believe that private initiative, investment and management can operate in this field to the benefit of all, provided ample safeguards are assured through legislative and administrative action to protect the pub-

The Resolutions Committee pointed out that the American Federation of Labor has a special interest in the atomic energy program since A. F. of L. members built and now operate the great majority of atomic installations.

We are proud," said the committee's report, "of the invaluable contribution they have made to the success of the nation's atomic energy program. We also commend the successful efforts our affiliates in this industry have made to establish high standards of wages and working conditions as well as their constructive approach to labor-management relations in this new and vital industry."

The Resolutions Committee urged the establishment of a Labor-Management Advisory Committee to advise the Atomic Energy Commission on all aspects of labor relations. The committee pointed out that atomic workers are placed in a difficult position because "security requirements frequently prevent the full expression of collective bargaining."

The report on atomic energy was



Greetings from the venerable Frank Duffy were conveyed by M. A. Hutcheson of Carpenters



Mrs. Margaret Thornburgh of Labor's League emphasized importance of women in elections



The convention was hard work every day for Bill Schnitzler and assistant, W. J. Bassett, leader of Los Angeles central body

unanimously approved by the conven-

After the adoption of the report on atomic energy, President Meany recognized A. F. of L. Vice-President Maurice A. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

"I have a message to deliver from our secretary emeritus, Frank Duffy,' Brother Hutcheson told the convention. "He has asked that his best wishes be extended to all his friends and delegates. As you all know, Mr. Duffy attended fifty-one consecutive conventions of the American Federation of Labor. This is the first convention that he has missed in fiftytwo years."

The motion was made and unanimously carried to convey the best wishes of the convention to Brother Duffy, whom President Meany called "our good old friend, old soldier." Approval of this motion was by a rising vote.

A. F. of L. Vice-President A. J.

Hayes, president of the International Association of Machinists, took the chair temporarily, and the Resolutions Committee resumed its report.

The portion of the Executive Council's Report dealing with the question of internal security was placed before the convention. The Resolutions Committee commented:

"There can be no doubt that both as individuals and through group action, Communists will continue to exert their fullest efforts to subvert the nation's internal security. One form of such action is through the activities of any labor unions which they may control.

"The American Federation of Labor has fought vigorously against communism and all types of Communist infiltration. This organization is proud of the record it has compiled, both here and abroad, in helping to make the American labor movement the most effective bulwark against communism."

The Resolutions Committee em-



Conditions in Canada were outlined in speech by Fraternal Delegate Metheral

Peter McGavin, A. F. of L's assistant director of organization, and singing star Dinah Shore, herself an A. F. of L. member, had a friendly confab after 'Operation Entertainment,' coast-to-coast video show





Insurance Agents were represented by George Russ



At the Convention

An article in the official magazine of the A. F. of L. held attention of Vice-President Herman Winter and Vice-President Charles MacGowan on eve of convention. Convention itself urged efforts to increase circulation



The A. F. of L. movement of Los Angeles did an outstanding job of providing entertainment for delegates' wives and other convention visitors. A feshion show proved popular with the ladies

phasized that, while the American Federation of Labor wants every possible measure taken to stamp out subversion, none of the nation's basic civil liberties should be violated in the process.

"The detailed report of the Executive Council," said the committee, "makes it clear that on this difficult issue our representatives have developed a program which does not minimize the threat of Communist subversion but which at the same time keeps inviolate America's traditional insistence upon individual liberty. This must continue to be the goal of our policies on this issue."

The report of the Resolutions Committee on internal security was

adopted by the convention.

Labor Unity

Next to be reported upon by the committee was the subject of labor unity. The committee said:

"In the year that has passed since our 1953 convention, the two major labor federations have taken great strides forward toward the goal of a united labor movement. The major achievement has been the ratification and signing by a substantial majority of the affiliates of both federations of two-year no-raiding agreement."

The committee emphasized that signing of the no-raiding agreement represents only the start of a union's responsibility on this issue." Each union must make certain that the pact is clearly understood by its entire membership, the committee said, and all must be ready to utilize and abide by the pact's enforcement machinery.

Declaring that a united labor movement has always been the goal in the hearts and minds of all trade unionists, the Resolutions Committee said:

"It has long been evident that the present division in labor's ranks serves the interests of only one group -the enemies of labor."

The report said that the more peaceful atmosphere resulting from the noraiding agreement "should permit negotiations for unity to move forward with dispatch." The report added:

"As an indication of the growing feeling for unity, your committee heartily welcomes the precedent-making letter of fraternal greetings which President Walter P. Reuther of the Congress of Industrial Organizations has sent to this convention.'

Temporary Chairman Haves recognized President Meany who, in commenting on the no-raiding agreement between the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O., said:

"From this agreement an atmosphere can be developed, and I think that atmosphere is developing, where the two organizations-the two trade union centers of this country-can sit down, approach and solve the problem of organic unity in an atmosphere of peace. I think we can very well congratulate the committees of both organizations that worked on this agreement and brought it about."

The agreement is "working," President Meany emphasized. He expressed his confidence that those who have entered into the pact have done so "in good faith." He also noted that the agreement will run to Decem-

ber 31, 1955.

During the discussion the delegates also heard remarks by George Q. Lynch, president of the Pattern Makers, and Frank Turco, representing the Seattle Newsboys. Then the convention voted and gave its approval to the committee's report.

Ben Horowitz, executive director of the City of Hope, a medical center treating patients suffering from catastrophic diseases, told the story of that institution and then presented a scroll to President Meany as chairman of the City of Hope's National Labor Council. Mr. Horowitz, speaking for the board of directors of the institution, thanked President Meany for "the splendid work you have done for us during the years."

After accepting the scroll, President Meany said:

"I have been familiar for many years with the work of this hospital, and I can bear testimony to the fact that it is a personalized institution in the sense that it gives personal and special care to each and every one of the people who are unfortunate enough to have to go to the City of Hope."

In a traditional ceremony, President Meany, on behalf of the convention, presented watches to the British and Canadian fraternal delegates and their wives. The chairman alluded to the "very enduring" character of the relationship between the American Federation of Labor and both the British Trades Union Congress and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Those to whom the mementoes

were given expressed their thanks and told the convention that they had greatly enjoyed the sessions and the opportunity to make new friends.

The Committee on Legislation presented its report to the convention. A. F. of L. Vice-President Charles J. MacGowan was the chairman of this committee. The secretary of the committee, Joseph Keenan, submitted the report.

Various items of national legislation which had been covered in detail in the report of the Executive Council were brought before the convention by the Committee on Legislation after Chairman MacGowan had told the

delegates:

"I was rather interested in hearing President Meany say the other day that some of our people say we shouldn't get into politics. When you see the mass of stuff involving national legislation alone, you wonder how anybody can entertain the idea of staying out of politics."

The Committee on Legislation summarized and commented on the Council's reports dealing with lobbying, social security, highway construction, conservation of natural resources, wiretapping and other topics. The various sections of the committee's report were approved by the convention.

Chairman Russell M. Stephens presented the final report of the Credentials Committee, which had examined the credentials of 660 delegates, representing 100 national and international unions, four A. F. of L. Departments, forty-two State Federations of Labor, 154 city centrals and fortyfive local trade and federal labor unions, and of the three fraternal delegates.

At the afternoon session a solid ivory gavel made by members of Federal Labor Union 19635, Muskegon, Michigan, was presented to President Meany. Then Secretary Schnitzler read communications, including one from Robert Bothereau of France's democratic trade union movement, Force Ouvrière.

James L. McDevitt, director of Labor's League for Political Education, and Mrs. Margaret Thornburgh, director of the Women's Division of the League, addressed the convention.

"We are rather encouraged with the developments up to this hour," Mr. McDevitt informed the delegates.

He appealed for more of the "little dollars" which L.L.P.E. has been seek-

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ing in voluntary contributions from the members of trade unions in this year's campaign.

"If we secure enough help financially," Mr. McDevitt said, "you may rest assured that we will have a majority of friends in the House and in the Senate as well."

The director of Labor's League told the convention that "up to this hour there seems to be a tendency on the part of the people to make some changes here and there." He said most of the affiliated unions have given "tremendous response" to the League's dollar-raising campaign and he expressed the hope that "we will be able to enlist the aid of all of our organizations.

Mrs. Thornburgh, in her address, said:

"I realize that there is a great need for women to become educated as to the problems of confronting organized labor today. I was amazed, after the election in 1952, when I realized that women had been falsely informed. So I was sincerely thankful when President Meany and Mr. McDevitt called me in and gave me the opportunity to work with women."

Promising an "all-out effort" in her position as head of the Women's Division, Mrs. Thornburgh appealed to the delegates to give her maximum cooperation.

"The success or failure of my Division rests heavily in your hands," she said. "If I can get your all-out support and help and cooperation, it will be a success. If not, we will go down to defeat. So today I make a plea to you to give me an opportunity to do something for organized labor in some small way, so that I can carry the banner that will enable our families to have a more secure future.'

President Meany, describing Mrs. Thornburgh as "very capable," told the convention that she has been doing "a splendid job." He explained that the Administrative Committee of Labor's League decided to establish the Women's Division after the 1952 election. In that election, he said, it became "quite clear" that part of the trade union vote "was canceled by the vote of the trade unionists' wives who felt that they could vote on something other than the bread-and-butter issues in which we are interested."

President Meany also commented on the new regional setup in Labor's League and the appointment and ac-

Los Angeles Snapshots



During a recess Kentucky's Sam Exelle (left) and Louisiana's E. H. Williams were photographed with Secretary Schnitzler



Labor's League Director James McDevitt urged all to give \$1



Alert figures were Richard Gray and Frank Bonadio, Building Trades Department president and secretary



President Cross of the Bakery Workers



Secretary Ziegler of Railway Clerks



Glen Slaughter of

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tivities of League regional directors. "We are getting a great deal more local cooperation," he informed the

convention.

A. F. of L. Vice-President Maurice A. Hutcheson took the chair, and the Resolutions Committee resumed its report. The first subject presented to the convention dealt with the efforts of the American Federation of Labor

on the New York waterfront subsequent to the expulsion from the Federation of the racket-ridden International Longshoremen's Association by the St. Louis convention.

The report told of the organization of the new American Federation of Labor affiliate, the International Brotherhood of Longshoremen, and of the old I.L.A.'s election victory, by



Many addresses were heard at the 1954 convention, and the delegates stood up and applauded when a speech made a real hit



From Europe came Omer Becu to tell parley about progress of I.C.F.T.U.



Carl H. Mullen was there for the Indiana Federation



President W. L. McFetridge of the Building Service Employes chaired convention for a time



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The San Francisco central body was represented by Delegate Jack Goldberger





NOVEMBER, 1954

a slight margin, in the Port of New York. Although the new A. F. of L. union narrowly missed out in the balloting, the report noted that the vigorous efforts of the American Federation of Labor, under the leadership of President Meany and the other trustees of the new organization, changed many things for the better.

"New York has seen only the first round of this fight," the committee's report said. "The American Federation of Labor will continue to render full assistance to this new international union until it succeeds in its objective of organizing the working longshoremen of the nation. That includes, without reservation, the long-shoremen employed in the Port of New York."

Ossip Walinsky, president of the International Handbag, Luggage, Belt and Novelty Workers, commenting on the committee's report, assailed those corporations which willingly "co-exist with gangsterism, hoodlumism and communism."

"It has been established during the investigations," Brother Walinsky said, "that the gentleman running our shipping in our ports want to live with gangsterism and hoodlumism and not with the American Federation of Labor."

Delegate Turco of the Seattle Newsboys also spoke.

The committee's waterfront report was approved by the convention.

Next the Resolutions Committee reviewed the history of labor's efforts to amend the Taft-Hartley Act and put the spotlight on the recent monstrous actions of the new National Labor Relations Board majority. The new majority, the committee said, has given encouragement to employers "in resisting the organizing efforts of

workers, in frustrating their effectiveness at the bargaining table and in impairing their ability to act in concert for protection or attainment of their legitimate rights and objectives."

Labor's efforts to obtain a fair statute will be fruitful only when those who oppose justice and fairness have been defeated at the polls and replaced by "men and women who will listen to truth and reason," the

committee declared. The course pursued by the National Labor Relations Board majority, said the committee, has made the Taft-Hartley Act more oppressive even without the passage of the vicious new amendments aimed at labor. The report remarked that "this process" apparently has the approval of the Eisenhower Administration and "certainly" has the blessings of the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"We must continue with vigor to press for very substantial amendments," the convention declared.

Pay Veto Assailed

The Committee on Legislation, resuming its report to the convention, assailed President Eisenhower's veto of the salary increase for federal employes. "Not impressed" by the Administration's arguments against higher pay for government workers, the committee urged "every possible support" of renewed efforts at the next session of Congress to obtain "a justified wage increase for all federal government employes." The convention approved this section of the committee's report.

President Meany, commenting on the convention's disapproval of the Presidential veto, called the delegates' criticism "well grounded." He noted the traditional stand of organized labor that "no business has a right to rest its continued existence on the payment of less than a decent living wage to the employes."

"I think that what you have heard today in regard to the veto of this bill should go into the fair record of appraisal that we are making at this convention," President Meany said.

The Resolutions Committee, in a

continuation of its report, charged that changes in the federal tax laws are not equitable and not directed at strengthening the economic health of the nation. The giving of tax relief to those who least need such relief was condemned.

"This is particularly serious," said the committee, "at a time when an increase in purchasing power, which could be achieved through long-overdue relief to taxpayers in the lower-income group, is so urgently needed."

Major General Melvin J. Maas, retired, United States Marine Corps, the chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped, addressed the convention.

"The unions themselves are called upon to perhaps make the biggest sacrifices in this field," he said, "but it is one that you are making and with great understanding. With the understanding of the unions—and it is increasing everywhere, and the leadership in this field has been taken by the American Federation of Labor in your locals—we are gradually absorbing the physically handicapped into normal employment."

General Maas presented a Presidential citation for distinguished service to President Meany for "his personal leadership in this field." President Meany in his response emphasized that the cooperation is given at the local level by the international unions, the local unions, the State Federations of Labor and the city centrals. He also gave credit to the staff at American Federation of Labor headquarters, "especially the Legislative Department under Bill Hushing." President Meany assured General Maas of the continued and complete cooperation of the A. F. of L. in this work.

The Committee on the Shorter Workday then took over. The chairman of this committee was Lee Minton, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers. The secretary, Louis P. Marciante, president of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, read the committee's report.

The report urged the thirty-hour week as a long-range legislative goal of the American Federation of Labor and called upon all unions to "continue unabated their efforts to reduce hours of work in their respective trades and crafts." The effects of automation must be taken into account, the committee said.

The report continued:

"Your committee recommends that the American Federation of Labor, through its public relations program, answer the reactionary critics who falsely claim that the shorter workweek means inevitable higher labor costs and prices. Our history proves that the shorter workweek results in full utilization of our productive ca-



Observing events was F. K. (Dick) Dashiell of AFL News-Reporter

pacities, a larger volume of production, greater efficiency, more products at lower prices and consequently a higher standard of living for all."

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The Committee on Industrial Relations followed with its report. The chairman of this committee was Joseph P. McCurdy, president of the United Garment Workers. The report was read by the committee's secretary, George L. Warfel of the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers.

The committee called for "free, unhampered, undiluted collective bargaining." It assailed the Taft-Hartley Act as "the greatest deterrent to good labor-management relations" and blasted the present National Labor Relations Board as an agency "packed" against labor. The NLRB as now constituted, said the committee, "has done more to undermine good labor-management relations of late than at any time since the infamous Taft-Hartley Law became the law of the land." The report called for redoubled efforts to repeal Taft-Hartley and to "fight for such management-labor relations as will be fair, equitable and just to both labor and management."

The no-raiding agreement between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the program for elimination of jurisdictional controversies arising within the A. F. of L. itself were warmly commended in the committee's report. The committee rapped anti-union propaganda designed to bring about further legislative injury to labor in Congress and the state legislatures.

Without a single dissenting vote, the report of the Committee on Industrial Relations was approved.

Constitution Changed

The Committee on Laws was next to take the center of the stage. The chairman of this committee was A. F. of L. Vice-President William C. Birthright, president of the Journeymen Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmetologists. The report was read by the committee's secretary, Patrick E. Gorman, secretary of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

As proposed by the Executive Council and recommended by the Committee on Laws, a change in the constitution was authorized under which the secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. will be required to make an audit at

least annually of the books, accounts, records and financial transactions of all federal labor unions. This will include any welfare, retirement or other beneficial plans. Power to carry out



Labor's objective is 'a better day for all,' President Meany declared

any disciplinary or remedial action, where an audit reveals any irregularities, will repose in the A. F. of L.'s president under Section 6, Article VI.

The Committee on Laws recommended an increase in the monthly per capita tax of federal labor unions to sixty cents per member. Secretary Schnitzler explained that a careful study was made and it showed that service to federal labor unions accounted for 44 per cent of the total annual cost of the operation of the A. F. of L.'s organizing staff. President Meany pointed out that while the financial breakdown referred only to organizing expenses, many other services are given to the federal unions. These services, he said, include assistance in collective bargaining, the supplying of time-study experts, the provision of financial data on the corporations with which the federal organizations deal and help in setting up

After the A. F. of L.'s officers had spoken, the proposed amendment was put to a vote and approved by the delegates. They also authorized amendments in relation to the dues and initiation fees of federal labor unions. Henceforth dues must be at least \$2 a month and initiation fees at least \$2 and not more than \$15.

By unanimous vote the convention changed the constitutional provision for the annual conventions. Instead of opening on the third Monday in September, future conventions will get under way on the third Thursday of the same month. The change was authorized with the idea that the first two days of a convention would be taken up with speeches and then, after the weekend, the delegates could settle down to the business sessions. Under the new provisions, next year's Chicago convention will open on Thursday, September 15.

The convention directed the Executive Council to continue its study of the American Federation of Labor constitution with a view to such revision of the document as may appear desirable.

The Resolutions Committee followed the Committee on Laws. On the subject of civil rights, the Resolutions Committee said:

"It is especially important that our Federation continue its efforts to secure acceptance of the principle and practice of equal employment opportunity. We reaffirm our determination to obtain enactment of fair employment practices legislation."

All affiliated unions were asked to demonstrate in their day-to-day activities "complete adherence to the principle and practice of equality of employment opportunity so that there can be no possibility for reactionary employers, who may wish to perpetuate discriminatory practices, to shift the responsibility to the union."

The committee's report scored the methods pursued in investigations conducted by Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin. Those investigations, the committee told the convention, "have to an unprecedented degree brazenly flouted traditional democratic procedures."

The committee applauded progress toward the elimination of racial discrimination, "climaxed by the historic Supreme Court decision" outlawing segregation of students in the public schools. But the committee emphasized that "much still remains to be done to assure equality of opportunity to all Americans."

Unanimous approval was given to

all the committee statements on civil rights.

The Resolutions Committee termed establishment of the new A. F. of L. Standing Committee on Community Relations "a major forward step." All affiliates were urged to support the expanded community relations program. Central labor unions which have not yet done so were asked to "establish a specific committee on community relations to carry through this vital function." Vice-President Matthew Woll is chairman of the new Committee on Community Relations.

In another action the Resolutions Committee called upon affiliated organizations to continue to give assistance and guidance to their members in the organization and operation of credit unions and non-profit consumer cooperatives. Credit unions, the committee pointed out, are of value to wage-earners, enabling them to borrow funds when necessary at low cost.

The reports of the Resolutions Committee were approved unanimously.

At 5 P.M. the convention recessed until Monday morning.

6th DAY

Welfare fund action is taken; President Meany says money in funds is 'sacred'; committees report; all officers are reelected

The final day of the 1954 convention was called to order at 9:30 A.M., Monday, September 27. After the invocation, which was given by Dr. Ray W. Ragsdale, superintendent of the Los Angeles Diocese of the Methodist Church, various communications were read by Secretary Schnitzler. Then President Meany recognized James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians and chairman of the Committee on Education, for the report of that committee. The report was read by the committee's secretary, Carl Megel, president of the Teachers.

The committee recommended the adoption of a resolution "applauding, endorsing and supporting" the Supreme Court's decision outlawing segregation in public schools. This resolution called upon all affiliates to contribute fully in their communities "to bring about full and complete implementation of this decision." The res-

olution had been introduced by the delegation representing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Sleeping Car Porters, pointing out that Communist newspapers had made no mention of the Supreme Court's decision when it was handed down, said:

"This decision is worth more to the foreign policy of our country in combating worldwide Russian communism in its effort to establish worldwide conquest than all of the hydrogen bombs and atomic bombs that we can make. It is one decision that has been able to reach the hearts of the teeming millions of people of color in Asia and Africa."

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote.

The Committee on Education recommended approval of a resolution introduced by President Martin P. Durkin, president of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry. The purpose of this resolution was to promote wide acceptance, within the ranks of organized labor, of plans for cooperative education. Under unanimous consent, this resolution by former Secretary of Labor Durkin had been introduced on the fourth day of the convention.

Delegate Peter T. Schoemann of the United Association presented Delegate Durkin's statement in support of the resolution. This statement pointed out that Soviet Russia is far ahead of the United States in the number of trained engineers graduated each year. Next year, the statement said, the Soviets will turn out 50,000 trained engineers and this country will graduate only 17,500—"but the demand will be greater than 40,000."

Under the plan advanced by Brother Durkin, each local union would select pairs of qualified applicants for apprentice training. Of each pair of apprentices who wish to go to college to be trained as engineers, one would go to college for one semester and the other would proceed with the work of an apprentice. At the end of the semester the apprentices would change places. They would continue to change places, semester by semester. College tuition would be paid by the union. The procedure advocated by the president of the United Association would give an apprentice in that union-at the end of five years-his certificate as a journeyman and also his college diploma in engineering.

The resolution, urging all international unions to put cooperative education plans into effect, was adopted unanimously.

The Committee on Education directed attention to the efforts of management to dominate schools and colleges. These efforts, representing "a serious challenge to academic integrity," are fostered by the National Association of Manufacturers "and other such industrial organizations," the delegates were informed.

The Resolutions Committee resumed its report to the convention. Reporting on the section of the Executive Council's Report dealing with the economic situation, the committee said:

"There is no evidence on the economic horizon that allows us to be complacent about the future. It may well be true that the next few months will see a strong improvement in business conditions. There is no reason to believe that such an improvement will occur automatically."

The committee hailed the Executive Council's ten-point program as "vitally necessary to a sustained revival of economic activity" and "a comprehensive program to lift America out of its current recession." The Federation was asked to "devote its most energetic efforts" to obtain adoption of the ten-point program.

Welfare Funds

The Resolutions Committee presented its report on the subject of health and welfare funds. The committee said:

"The American Federation of Labor is deeply concerned about recent reports and disclosures of abuses and violations of trust on the part of some individuals holding positions of re-



Pat Somerset (left) of Screen Actors and Anthony Matz, Firemen and Oilers

sponsibility in the operation of health and welfare funds established for the benefit of trade union members.

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"There can be no excuse for or defense of the actions of any trade union officer who becomes a party to such abuses, or who takes advantage of his position for the purpose of selfenrichment from these funds or by accepting personal favors or inducements from commercial insurance companies."

The committee's report pointed out that welfare fund abuses, in addition to inflicting harm upon workers, play into the hands of the enemies of labor.

"The correction of these conditions and the prevention of any recurrence is the responsibility not only of the authorities charged with the enforcement of any laws that may be involved but of the trade union movement, whose principles, standards and integrity are at stake," the committee said.

Those who prey upon welfare funds were branded as "traitors to labor."

"It is incumbent upon every organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to take every step that may be available to it to clean up any such situations that may exist within its province, to take appropriate action against any official guilty of abuses and to establish a system of standards, methods and procedures in the administration and policing of health and welfare programs that will prevent the recurrence of such abuses," the committee's report said.

"It is the policy of the American Federation of Labor to cooperate fully with any duly constituted investigating body or agency engaged in an objective and impartial effort to determine the character, extent and source of corrupt or unethical practices in the operation of health and welfare plans."

The committee emphasized that investigations must be objective, conducted in good faith and as keenly interested in discovering welfare fund delinquencies of employers, insurance companies, agencies, brokers, state regulatory bodies and doctors as of trade union representatives.

The kind of investigation that will have the "strong and wholehearted" support of the American Federation of Labor, said the committee, must "penetrate to the root sources of the problem and deal with every phase of it—including those phases which

Convention Commends A. F. of L. Magazine

The Los Angeles convention concurred unanimously in a Resolutions Committee report commending The American Federationist and calling upon all affiliated unions to cooperate in giving the A. F. of L.'s monthly magazine "the widest possible circulation."

The report of the Resolutions Committee said:

"THE AMERICAN FEDERA-TIONIST, the official monthly magazine of the American Federation of Labor, has won a prominent place in our movement as a major contributor to increased understanding of and interest in the American Federation of Labor. The magazine has proved a valuable source of informative articles about current legislative issues and the work of our affiliated unions. In addition, its articles on developments of concern to labor taking place in the far-flung corners of the globe provide up-to-the-minute information that is duplicated in no other publication.

"Your committee concurs in the Executive Council's recommendation that every possible effort be made during the coming year to increase the circulation of THE AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST among trade union members and the general public. We ask that our affiliated unions cooperate in giving THE AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST the widest possible circulation."

For convention action on other A. F. of L. publications, please see Page 23.

labor alone is powerless to controlin a genuinely effective way."

President Meany spoke in support of the committee's report.

"I feel that the international unions should look this whole situation over carefully," he said, "and use whatever power they have under their international constitutions to see to it that the individual member is protected insofar as it is possible for the international union to protect him in the operation of these plans, because in the final analysis, when this money is set aside into a pension fund or a welfare fund of any type, it is money that belongs to the member."

The money that is put aside, Mr. Meany declared, belongs to the union member "and to nobody else."

In this field, the A. F. of L.'s president told the convention, the fact that the greatest number of health and welfare programs are run properly "is no defense for one plan that goes bad."

"This is sacred money," Mr. Meany said, "that belongs to these members and doesn't belong to the union or anyone connected with the union, except the individual member who is building up this reserve that is set aside for sickness or injury, or the consequences of disease, or the consequences of old age. So this money belongs to the member, and we must protect it."

The labor movement must face the

problem, he told the delegates, not on the basis of the 99 per cent of funds that are good but on the basis of those that "go bad." Labor must cooperate in every possible way, "legislatively or otherwise," to protect the interests of the individual members, he said.

"I, too, know that these things can be used politically," President Meany asserted, "that the bad operation of one fund could make nationwide headlines while the good operation of 500 other funds wouldn't make a headline. But that is in the very nature of things, and we have got to protect our membership in any and all situations.

"We wouldn't wait for the district attorney to take action against a fellow traveler who is running one of our unions or an out-and-out member of the Communist Party. We would find some union method to operate against that fellow and take him out of his position. I think the same should apply here.

"It is not a question of criminal prosecution; that is the district attorney's job. Of course, I realize that we have got to protect the individual, the civil rights of all our people, and that includes the officers of trade unions. But it is a question here of protecting the money that belongs to the individual worker, and there can't be any 99 per cent on this. This must be 100 per cent, and we must cooperate in every way possible.



President Meany was snapped with Ed S. Miller, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes

"We must go out and help with any legitimate investigation. We must see that the investigation is fair. And if legislation is necessary, let us have a hand in the writing of the legislation."

Dave Beck, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, spoke on the committee's report. He said he was in favor of honest, judicial, non-political investigations but strongly opposed to political probes. He expressed the opinion that any person guilty of racketeering in connection with union welfare, insurance or pension programs "is 'ower than the belly of a snake."

Brother Beck pledged his support of the committee's report. He insisted, however, that those who are accused of misdeeds must be given their day in court. He added:

"Let us proceed under our judicial system, not trying to find excuses, because honorable men don't try to find them, but every man is entitled to have his side of the story before either you or I or the social or economic life of this country passes judgment on them. We will open the door to fascism and communism when we try to deprive men of their judicial rights."

The president of the Teamsters was applauded when he said:

"It is better a hundred guilty escape than one innocent man be sacrificed to hysteria and politics."

The report of the committee was approved by the convention.

The election of officers was the next item of business before the convention. President Meany was nominated and unanimously reelected. He expressed his thanks for the action of the delegates and voiced the hope "that I can prove worthy in the days to come of the confidence that you have reposed in me."

"When you pay respect to me I feel that actually what you are doing is paying respect to this great organization," President Meany said. "The work in this organization is done by many, many people."

"I will give the very best I can to this great movement, irrespective of opposition from employers, from politicians or from any source whatso-

ever, so that we can continue to go down the road that was charted seventy-five years ago by Mr. Gompers and the early pioneers, continue our forward progress down the road for a better day for all Americans."

The convention reelected Matthew Woll as first vice-president, George M. Harrison as second vice-president. Daniel J. Tobin as third vice-president, Harry C. Bates as fourth vicepresident, William C. Birthright as fifth vice-president, William C. Doherty as sixth vice-president, David Dubinsky as seventh vice-president, Charles J. MacGowan as eighth vicepresident, Herman Winter as ninth vice-president, D. W. Tracy as tenth vice-president, William L. McFetridge as eleventh vice-president, James C. Petrillo as twelfth vice-president, Dave Beck as thirteenth vice-president, Maurice A. Hutcheson as fourteenth vice-president and A. J. Hayes as fifteenth vice-president.

Schnitzler Speaks

Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler was unanimously reelected. Addressing the convention, he said:

"I want to express my deep and heartfelt appreciation in every way I know how for this great honor that you have bestowed upon me. I want to say, too, if there is anything that I have done in the past year in the service of the American Federation of Labor, I want you to keep in mind that I was under the constant ad-

vice and had the everlasting every-day help of President Meany in carrying out this work."

Secretary Schnitzler paid a warm tribute to the members of the Executive Council for their cooperation and he also commended department heads and office employes at A. F. of I., headquarters in Washington for "working as one great team."

"I want to dedicate myself to the necessary work to carry out the pronouncements that you have made," he said. "And as we march down the road together in the days ahead of us, I will be calling on every one of you, as I have in the past, together with the officers of the State Federations, the officers of the city central bodies and the officers of all of our affiliated local unions.

"Our future is ours to make. I'll be part of you as we do that."

President Meany told the delegates:
"It is a pleasure to work with Bill
Schnitzler. What he tells you about
our office, about the complete unanimity, the working arrangements
there, is absolutely so. He is making
a very fine contribution."

The convention chose Seattle over Vancouver as the convention city for 1956. The city for next year, Chicago, had already been chosen. The vote was by a show of hands.

President Meany introduced a group of young Chinese soldiers who were prisoners of war of the United Nations during the Korean conflict. He explained that they were representative of the 14,000 Chinese Communist troops who, when given their choice, decided not to go back to Communist China but went instead to Formosa.

Speaking for the group, Hu Shukwang reported on the ugly conditions inside Communist China.

"While we were on the Communist-dominated mainland of China," he said, "many of us had dreamed of the 'workers' paradise' promised us by the Communist rulers. Some of us had toiled and shed our blood for the Communists. But after a few years of Communist rule we came to know that the Communists never intended and were fully



President James Petrillo of Musicians' Federation

incapable of fulfilling their promises. Far from being the 'leadership class,' as the Communists asserted, the laborers in Communist-dominated China are slave laborers, human tools in the hands of the state bureaucracy."

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At the afternoon session the Resolutions Committee resumed its report to the convention. The report, read by the committee's secretary, President Reuben Soderstrom of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, covered sections of the Executive Council's Report dealing with the deterioration of the Department of Labor, the activities of Labor's League for Political Education, social security, collective bargaining developments, copyright legislation, reciprocal trade agreements and a number of other subjects.

A resolution assailing Senator Mc-Carthy of Wisconsin was adopted by the convention. This resolution condemned his conduct as "unworthy of the American tradition" and scored his voting record "against the interest of working men and women on every single major issue, including questions of minimum wages, social security, public housing, the Taft-Hartley Law, control of inflation, education, taxes and civil rights." The resolution adopted by the convention was a committee substitute for one originally introduced by the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor.

Publications Lauded

The convention praised THE AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST, the weekly AFL News-Reporter and the Noticiario Obrero Norteamericano. The delegates lauded the Spanish-language semi-monthly publication, saying:

"Through this medium the A. F. of L. has helped to promote better understanding and good will between our own membership and the workers of the Latin American nations south of our borders."

The convention gave its full endorsement to efforts to increase the circulation of the AFL News-Reporter "wherever a good bonafide local labor paper is lacking in the community." Urging full membership subscriptions to the A. F. of L.'s weekly newspaper, the delegates said:

"Our entire membership must be given accurate information which will make it possible for them intelligently to participate in the civic and political affairs of their communities, states and the nation."



Reporters were kept busy. The convention made lots of news, and stories were printed at home and abroad



E. R. Moffett of Chemical Workers

In regard to A. F. of L. use of radio and television, the convention concurred in the Resolutions Committee's recommendation that the Executive Council be authorized to make such arrangements as it deems practical and advisable "to advance the aims and objectives of the American Federation of Labor."

The Executive Council's recommendation that all available media should be employed to "improve" the A. F. of L.'s public relations program was endorsed by the convention.

A resolution expressing thanks to the citizens of Los Angeles and the officers and members of A. F. of L. unions in the area was adopted after President Meany commented:

"I personally don't know of any convention of the American Federation of Labor where we were accorded a warmer welcome and finer hospitality than we have been accorded here in the city of Los Angeles."

The Committee on State Organizations, of which Vice-President Herman Winter was the chairman, followed the Resolutions Committee. The report was presented by the committee's secretary, George L. Googe of the Printing Pressmen.

The Committee on State Organizations said:

"Our central bodies need and should have the affiliation of every local un-

should have the affiliation of every local union whose parent organization is part of the American Federation of Labor. These valuable organizations could function more effectively if they had 100 per cent membership of A. F. of L. unions in their respective jurisdictions.

"The growing ferocity of the legislative program put forth by anti-union forces makes

the reasons for affiliation even more compelling. We will need all the resources at our command to defeat the labor-hating legislative programs now appearing in practically every state."

The committee commended moves by the National Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor to set up "a clearing-house service on state legislation of interest to working people." The committee urged all State Federations of Labor to work with the Legislative Committee in "the closest possible cooperation."

The report of the Committee on State Organizations was adopted by unanimous vote.

At this point President Meany read into the record a message from General Alfred M. Gruenther, the NATO commander, in which he expressed deep regret at his inability to appear at the convention. Grave European developments had compelled General Gruenther to change his plans at the eleventh hour.

The Committee on Legislation was next to occupy the center of the stage. The chairman of this committee was Vice-President Charles J. MacGowan. The report was submitted by Joseph D. Keenan of the Electrical Workers, the committee's secretary.

Various sections of the Executive

Council's Report dealing with legislation were summarized in the report of the Committee on Legislation. Subjects covered by the Executive Council and the committee included the Bricker amendment, health insurance, safety, prohibition, statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, Congressional rules, improvements in the Railroad Retirement Act and the proposal to establish a Fed-



Ray Leheney, secretary, Union Label Department



John Connors (left) of A. F. of L. Education Department chatted with Phil Hannah, leader of Ohio labor



Reasons for raising federal labor unions' per capita were explained by Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler

eral Fine Arts Commission. The committee also reported on resolutions pertaining to postal employes and mail service as well as apprentice training, enlisted personnel, the Hatch Act and Canal Zone employment.

The report of the Committee on Legislation was adopted.

The Committee on Union Labels submitted its report to the convention. Raymond F. Leheney, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, was chairman of this committee. The secretary, J. Howard Hicks of the Office Employes International Union, read the report.

By unanimous vote the convention adopted a resolution urging each international union to participate in the annual Union Industries Shows. Another resolution approved by the delegates called upon federal labor unions to affiliate with Union Label Councils. The delegates reminded all purchasers of shoes to look for the union label of the A. F. of L.'s Boot and Shoe Workers and not be taken in by imitation labels. The committee's report, which was accepted by the convention, commended the officers and staff of the Union Label and Service Trades Department for excellent work during the past year.



In the absence of Leo George, who was ill, Postoffice Clerks were headed by E. C. Hallbeck, at the left in the front row

Secretary Schnitzler read a communication which had been received from Giulio Pastore, general secretary of C.I.S.L., the Italian Confederation of Trade Unions. The message, sent from Rome, expressed "profound and grateful friendship." Secretary Schnitzler also read a communi-

cation from Italo Viglianesi of the U.I.L., another anti-totalitarian labor group in Italy.

The names of the year's deceased trade unionists were read and then all the delegates stood in a silent tribute to the departed. Among the dead whose names were listed were William L. Hutcheson, John Pelkofer, Hugo Ernst, Leo Abernathy and Mrs. William Green.

Vice-President D. W. Tracy took the chair temporarily. The Committee on International Labor Relations was recognized for its report to the convention. The chairman of this committee was William J. McSorley, president of the Lathers. Lee W. Minton, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers, presented the report.

The committee praised the sections of the Executive Council's Report dealing with foreign policy, world affairs and international labor relations and activities.

The committee proposed to the convention that it endorse these sections of the Executive Council's Report, and the delegates followed the recommendation made by the committee.

Sections of the Executive Council's Report dealing with Latin America and the International Labor Organization were commended by the committee. It summarized these sections and asked the convention to endorse the reports. The delegates concurred.

The convention declared its approval of the recognition by the Foreign Operations Administration of "the importance of the contribution American labor can make" in the F.O.A.'s field of activity.

As recommended by the Committee on International Labor Relations, the delegates gave their approval to a resolution calling for the extension of human rights and national independence to all peoples and urging the United States "to bring to bear its fullest moral and material pressure" to speed up the freeing of colonial territories. The convention also adopted a resolution assailing "the white settlers and government officials" of Kenya, Africa. The U.N. was asked to investigate the situation in Kenya.

When the Committee on International Labor Relations had completed its report, President Meany thanked the chairman and members of the committee. President Meany then called the delegates' attention to the fact that Los Angeles was the fiftieth consecutive A. F. of L. convention for Chairman McSorley.

The tasks of the convention had all been completed. In his closing remarks, President Meany praised the delegates for excellent attendance and close attention to the addresses and committee reports. He called the convention "outstanding."

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With Vice-President William C. Doherty leading, the delegates joined in the traditional singing of "God Bless America." Fully aware of the blessings of American citizenship, the delegates sang Irving Berlin's beautiful song with great feeling.

At 4:10 P.M. the seventy-third annual convention of the American Federation of Labor adjourned sine die.

Vice-President William Doherty led the singing of 'God Bless America'





Building and Construction Trades Department convention had excellent attendance. Parley was action-packed and fast-moving

Building Trades Hold Successful Convention

THE Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor held one of the most successful conventions in its long history during the week before the opening of the A. F. of L.'s convention in Los Angeles. Presiding over the sessions of the Department was Richard J. Gray, president. Working in close cooperation with him at the head table was the Department's new secretary, Frank Bonadio, who succeeded Joseph Keenan recently when the latter became secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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Excellent reports were placed before the delegates in attendance at the Department's convention. The delegates heard addresses by a number of outstanding figures. Before the convention adjourned the delegates had given consideration to and taken appropriate action on a variety of resolutions. It was a fast-moving. worthwhile convention-one of the

very best, veteran delegates agreed.

The convention called for enactment by Congress of a federal construction law to protect wage and working standards in the building industry. The convention pointed out that more than \$12,000,000,000 worth of construction this year is being financed, in whole or in part, by federal funds-one-third of the year's total construction.

As conceived by the convention, the recommended statute would amend and improve all existing federal laws affecting hours of work, minimum wages, overtime and labor-management relations to meet the standards and objectives of the Building and Construction Trades Department.

The convention said the law should establish prevailing minimum wages, set up minimum hours of work and overtime provisions, rephrase labormanagement relations provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act so as to be adaptable to and workable in the building and construction industry, provide for apprenticeship training, cover workmen's compensation and establish minimum safety standards.

The delegates elected President Gray and Secretary Bonadio to fouryear terms and chose the following vice-presidents for one-year terms:

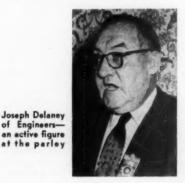
William J. McSorley of the Lathers, Daniel J. Tobin of the Teamsters, William E. Maloney of the Operating Engineers, M. A. Hutcheson of the Carpenters, Peter Fosco of the Laborers and Hod Carriers, L. M. Raftery of the Painters, Martin P. Durkin of the Plumbers and Pipefitters, and J. Scott Milne of the Electrical Workers.



Wielding gavel at Los Angeles was Richard Gray, Department president

an active figure

at the parley





Frank Bonadio, new secretary of Department, was efficient

NOVEMBER, 1954

Metal Department Has Excellent Convention

NE of the most successful conventions in the history of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor was held at Los Angeles on September 13 and 14. With President James A. Brownlow in the chair, the business of the convention was transacted in a smooth and efficient manner. Sessions were held in the Gold Room of the Ambassador Hotel.

In opening the Department's fortyfifth annual convention, President Brownlow read a message from John P. Frey, president emeritus. The message emphasized that the American trade union movement came into being through the efforts of workmen themselves.

"They and they alone had organized it," Mr. Frey's communication said. "They had received no help from the outside. In the face of every form of opposition, they defended it with all of the energy and courage they possessed."

The message pointed out that such an organization as the Metal Trades Department could have been established only where "the institutions of freedom and true democracy" exist.



Thomas Ranford welcomed Metal Trades' delegates



W. F. Patterson discussed need for more apprentices

No free trade union movement can function, said the Department's former head, "where dictatorship of any form raises its hideous head."

President Brownlow, in his keynote speech to the convention, called attention to the unemployment problem.

"It seem to me," he said,
"that should be the paramount issue in which the
trade union movement itself should interest itself:
Whether or not this economy

of ours is geared to the point where we can have full employment at good wages without the necessity of finding some place where there shall be killing and conflict between nations."

In regard to the use of atomic energy in industry, President Brownlow said:

"Is the trade union movement going to stand by and watch this great new power develop solely in the interest of those who would exploit it, or are we going to see to it that this great new power and energy is developed in the interest of all the people of the United States?"

Anti-labor legislation, shipbuilding and apprenticeship were other subjects covered in President Brownlow's keynote address.

W. F. Patterson, director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, U.S. Department of Labor, told the delegates that the number of apprentices registered in the metal trades has increased slightly during the year. However, not enough apprentices are being trained, he said, to meet the demands of industry and the requirements of national defense.

Mr. Patterson suggested to the delegates that journeymen who have not had "the advantage of full training" should be encouraged to complete their training.

"The skills and services provided by workers in the metal trades are basic in our economy," the speaker told the convention.

"It is imperative, therefore, that the metal tradesman's training be the best that we can afford."



Questions about atomic energy were raised by James Brownlow, president of Department

Oscar S. Smith, director of organization and personnel, Atomic Energy Commission, praised the affiliates of the Metal Trades Department for their record of uninterrupted work on the government's atomic energy program.

Discussing the coming peacetime applications of atomic energy, he said that major labor dislocations are unlikely. He commended the unions affiliated with the Department for their interest in this problem.

Richard Gray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Department, assailed actions of the National Labor Relations Board.

"In my opinion," he said, "what it amounts to in a great many instances is that they are starting now to legislate by administrative processes and distort laws."

Assistant Secretary of Labor J. Ernest Wilkins addressed the convention. He called for the elimination of poverty throughout the world.

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Russell Stephens (left) of Technical Engineers chatted with George Lynch, the president of the Pattern Makers



Delegates at Union Label and Service Trades Department convention reviewed record of last year and made plans for next year



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ONIST

Pressman George Googe spoke at the convention



John Yarmola of Department staff



Joseph McCurdy had active convention role



Matthew Woll, president of Department

Objective Is Set at Label Parley

THE annual convention of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, which was held in Los Angeles prior to the American Federation of Labor convention, decided that the Department's continuing objective will be to find ways of giving constantly improving service to the labor movement as a whole.

Matthew Woll, president of the Department, in his address at the start of the convention, said:

"Great possibilities lie before

He called the Union Label and Service Trades Department "a most important arm of the American labor movement."

Organization of more local union label councils throughout the country was urged by George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor. He pointed out that the various central labor bodies, State Federations of Labor and ladies' auxiliaries could perform a vital job for the labor movement by greater activity at the local level.

William F. Schnitzler, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, praised the Department for its progress in recent years in promoting union labels, shop cards and service buttons. The Department has been doing an excellent job, he said, of carrying the union label message "not only to the members of the American Federation of Labor but also to the consuming public, whose help and support we need most of all."

The convention unanimously reelected all vice-presidents and elected President Woll and Secretary-Treasurer Leheney to new four-year terms.



A. F. of L. Secretary Schnitzler hailed progress



James Suffridge (left), secretary of Retail Clerks, got together with Ray Leheney, Department secretary



The International Labor Press convention was called best in history. In this picture A. F. of L's Philip Pearl is talking to editors



J. Scott Milne (left) is I.L.P.A. president and Lewis Herrmann is the secretary-treasurer

THE 1954 convention of the International Labor Press of America will be remembered for a long time by all labor editors who attended the sessions held in Los Angeles. The convention was generally regarded as one of the best in the annals of American labor journalism.



Fine quality of The Railway Clerk gained Editor Philip Ziegler an esteemed plaque



Work of the I.L.O. was the subject of Ralph Wright talk

A high spot of the conclave
was a workshop session. For
the workshop the I.L.P.A.
had the cooperation of the
University of California. This
session filled the first day of
the annual parley and proved
of definite practical value to
the editors of labor newspapers and magazines who
were in attendance.

The convention was an excellent one from beginning to end. Much important business was transacted. The convention closed with the traditional banquet at which "Award of Merit" plaques were presented to twenty-eight contest winners. Entries in the contest were judged by a board drawn from the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri.

An intensified campaign to purge the labor press of unethical papers was voted by the convention. A reso-

Labor Press Meet 'Tops'

lution adopted unanimously asserted:
"We believe that unless this type of
extortion [by unethical papers] is
stamped out, the good name of the
entire labor movement is endangered."

Three of the I.L.P.A.'s nine vicepresidents were elected for the first time at the Los Angeles convention. They are Paul L. Phillips, Gordon Cole and Richard Estep.



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Resolution in honor of Matthew Woll was accepted for him by son, J. Albert Woll

Labor NEWS BRIEFS

bLocal 1225, Radio Broadcast Technicians, a division of the Electrical Workers, has won a representation election among employes of the engineer unit at WKGG, radio and television, Fort Wayne, Ind.

DLocal 153, Office Employes, has gained a wage increase of \$2.60 a week, retroactive to June 1, in an agreement with the New York Hotel Association.

VThe Bookbinders in San Francisco and the Employing Printers Association have reached agreement on a pay increase, vacations and a welfare plan.

Modge 1600, Machinists, has negotiated a pay increase and won other benefits at Librascope, North Hollywood, Calif. The agreement averted a strike.

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Gordon

An election has been swept by Local 17 of the Technical Engineers at the General Petroleum oil refinery, Ferndale, Wash. The count was 28 to 0.

DLocal 563, Iron Workers, has completed a new pact with the Duluth Contractors Association, Duluth, Minn. One thousand men will benefit.

Substantial wage increases have been won by four groups of members of Local 317, Building Service Employes, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Local 155, Office Employes, has negotiated contract improvements at the Sterling Abrasives Division of Cleveland Quarries, Tiffin, Ohio.

Local 195, Butcher Workmen, has signed an improved contract with the independent meat packers in Philadelphia.

Mocal 107, Boilermakers, has won a 17½-cent hourly package for employes of Wisconsin power houses.

The Butcher Workmen have won an NLRB election among employes of the Armour branch in Albany, N. Y.

Mocal 655, Retail Store Employes, has completed new union contracts with six food markets in St. Louis. The U.S. Labor Department announces that the minimum wage for the corset, brassiere and allied garments industry in Puerto Rico will go from 33 cents to 55 cents an hour on November 8.

The Textile Workers have negotiated a two-year agreement with the Dominion Textile Company in Canada. The contract covers 4,000 workers in plants at Montreal and Valleyfield.

The Northeast Department of the Ladies' Garment Workers recently organized six new shops. Major improvements were won through contract renewals with two other plants.

Decay 319, Office Employes, was installed recently in Tucson, Ariz. A substantial pay increase has been obtained in the new local's first contract negotiation.

The new wage scale for members of Local 886, Plasterers and Cement Masons, in Toledo, Ohio, is \$3.20 per hour.

The Paper Workers have signed a new pact with seven Wisconsin plants of the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company.

A new agreement which provides various advances has been negotiated by Local 102, Building Service Employes, and San Diego, Calif., hotels. ▶ Higher wages and other benefits have been won by 1,100 members of Local 656, Butcher Workmen, who are employed in the Swift and Armour packing plants in North Portland, Oreg.

▶ Local 306, Chemical Workers, has won a pay hike and fringe benefits in a new accord with the Ansco Division of General Aniline and Film Corporation, Binghamton, N. Y.

An accord between Local 326, Bakery Workers, and the Indian Village Bakery, Detroit, guarantees that no employes will be laid off during the next year.

New agreements calling for a pay hike and improved conditions have been signed by the Machinists and three Phoenix, Ariz., bakeries. About twenty men are involved.

The Butcher Workmen have won recognition from the Fort Halifax Poultry Company, Waterville, Me. The pact covers 200 employes.

The Paper Workers, in new contracts with six Southern firms, have obtained wage boosts and improved working conditions.

▶ Local 458 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes has won a representation election among cafeteria employes at National Tea, Hopkins, Minn.

Give Your Dollar

The voluntary fund-raising campaign of Labor's League for Political Education continues. Every A. F. of L. member is asked to make a voluntary contribution of \$1.

Have you given your dollar? If you haven't, will you please do so today? And will you urge others to get busy, too, and join Labor's League for Political Education?

Let's all do our part. Give \$1 to Labor's League. Study the records of the candidates. And be sure to vote. Remember, it is still important for every worker to give that voluntary \$1.

NOVEMBER, 1954

IONIST

Local 52, Office Employes, is seeking certification as bargaining agent at American-National Insurance Company in Detroit. More than 50 per cent of the eligible employes have signed with the A. F. of L. affiliate.

The Ladies' Garment Workers in Canada have signed union agreements with eight dress concerns and one cloak firm in Montreal. The accords will give standard conditions to a total of 250 workers.

▶Higher wages have been won by 700 members of Local 125, Bakery and Confectionery Workers, at the Sunshine Biscuit Company in Oakland, Calif.

▶ Local 28, Upholsterers, has won acceptance of the union's pension program at the Portola Upholstering Company and Monroe Interiors in Fresno, Calif.

▶ Wage boosts and additional fringe benefits are included in the initial agreement between Local 9, Office Employes, and the Clairmont Transfer Company, Milwaukee.

▶ Local 1089 of the State, County and Municipal Employes won the approval of the authorities in Lake County, Ind., for a three-month test of the seven-hour workday.

Local 4 of the Retail Clerks negotiated a general agreement with forty-three Butte, Mont., stores providing for a 40-hour workweek, a wage increase and fringe benefits.

The Grain Millers have negotiated a new accord calling for a wage increase for 850 employes in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado and Idaho.

The Butcher Workmen easily won a certification election at the Swift and Company slaughtering plant at Menominee, Mich. The vote was 59 to 9.

Sitka, Alaska, stores under contract to Local 1394, Retail Clerks, have agreed to improved conditions for employes.

▶Local 13 of the Office Employes has negotiated its first contract with the American Lithofold Corporation, St. Louis.

▶Local 219 of the Cement Masons in Boise, Idaho, has succeeded in raising its wage scale to \$2.60 an hour.



Office scene at the New York headquarters of labor's own insurance company, Union Labor Life. Company president is Matthew Woll

▶Local 195 of the Butcher Workmen, Philadelphia, has gained substantial improvements in wages and in health benefits through contract adjustments at hotel and restaurant supply houses.

Seventy five students received a week's intensive training at the first Arizona Labor School, held at Flagstaff.

▶ Local 73 of the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers has gained a general pay raise at the National Gypsum Company, Medicine Lodge, Kans.

Higher wages have been won by Locals 636 and 643 of the Paper Workers at Macon Kraft Corporation, Macon, Ga.

Local 833, A. F. of L. Auto Workers, has negotiated an improved contract with Johnston Brothers, Ferrysburg, Mich.

The Machinists won a representation election, 238 to 142, at Engineering Research Associates, St. Paul, Minn.

An hourly wage increase and fringe benefits have been won by the Boiler-makers and Blacksmiths in their new Western States field agreement. The new wage scale is \$3.12½.

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Local 83, Teamsters, has signed an accord with twenty Phoenix, Ariz, lumber yards and mills and one stucco firm. Drivers' wages are increased.

Local 717, Paper Workers, has achieved a general increase at the Marathon Corporation, Sunnyside, Wash.

▶Local 88, Ladies' Garment Workers, has negotiated a new accord with the Pleaters, Stitchers, Tuckers and Embroidery Association in Philadelphia

▶Local 972, A. F. of L. Auto Workers, has won a pay increase for 200 workers at the Lauhoff Company, Danville,

Morkers' Local 750, Pueblo Colo., has secured an increase which brings the scale to \$2.77½ an hour.

Four hundred theatrical costume workers, members of Local 124 of the Ladies' Garment Workers in New York City, have approved a new contract which boosts wage and improves welfare provisions at seventeen costume houses.

Local 1823, Electrical Workers, was the victor in an election held at the Wazee Electric Company, Denver, Colo.

DLodge 777, Machinists, St. Louis, has negotiated a wage boost and other contract improvements in a renewed pact with the Motor Carrier Council.

Local 735, A. F. of L. Auto Workers, and the Universal Wire Spring Company of Cleveland have signed a new three-year contract calling for an additional paid holiday, a hospitalization and insurance plan and fringe benefits.

▶Increased wages have been won by the Butcher Workmen in a pact with the Associated Meat Jobbers of Southern California. Six thousand union members will get the higher pay.

The A. F. of L. Auto Workers won an election held at the Viking Air Conditioning Company in Cleveland. A dental care plan for 22,000 members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes in Los Angeles will go into effect September 15. The unique all-coverage plan will embrace the families of the union members as well as the workers themselves.

▶ Local 613, Electrical Workers, has gained a substantial pay increase at the Walker Electrical and Manufacturing Company, Atlanta, Ga.

Edward R. Moffett is the new president of the Chemical Workers. At the recent convention in Chicago he defeated the incumbent, H. A. Bradley.

Progress in Italy

(Continued from Page 9)

taling \$130,000,000. The previous pact, to which the Communists also had been a party, gained only \$80,000,000 for the workers.

Not unexpectedly, the Communists made a lot of noise in attempting to magnify the earlier agreement, while today they strive to belittle the significance of the far greater gains achieved by our Italian Confederation of Labor Unions alone.

The correspondent of the New York Times, in the dispatch mentioned earlier in this article, stated that the Communists look after the Italian workers' needs and interests. This statement is not consistent with the facts. The truth is that the Communists engage in demagogic agitation aimed at exploiting the workers' discontent for the benefit of Communists political purposes. The Communists are not interested in finding solutions to the workers' problems.

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Because the Communists' trickery is well disguised, it is difficult for many Italian workers to see through their shenanigans. This presents one of the largest obstacles to overcome in fighting communism in Italy.

The Italian Confederation of Labor Unions is convinced that what is needed on democracy's side is effective political, social and cultural education to enable the working people of our country to learn the truth about the Communist danger. And also needed, of course, are substantial improvements in the workers' standard of living which will demonstrate that democracy — through genuine trade union action—can better their lot.

C.I.S.L. conducts two trade union schools. There are yearly and quarterly classes for union functionaries. During the past year more than 5,000 C.I.S.L. members—factory and farm activists—took courses in trade unionism under C.I.S.L. auspices. Next year we expect that more than 10,000 will take part.

The struggle facing Italy's democratic labor movement is a difficult one. On this we are in full agreement with Correspondent Matthews. But if newspapermen really wish to provide information or criticism which will contribute to the solution of some of the free world's problems, they might give some attention to the actions of employers. In Italy it would be discovered that some employers, by their behavior, help to strengthen the Communists.

Because of great mistakes made by employers, Italy's democratic trade unionists often must wage the struggle on two fronts. Mr. Matthews' report seemed to imply that some Italian industrialists attempt to force their employes to shift from Communist organizations to free unions. I know nothing of such activities, but, on the contrary, I can furnish documentary evidence that some employers do their utmost to get rid of free trade union members—especially our activists—because they seek to protect the workers' interests.

Free trade unionism in Italy has suffered some severe losses in the past

A particularly great loss was that of Luigi Morelli, C.I.S.L.'s assist-



SIGNOR PASTORE

ant general secretary. He died while battling the Communists in one of the most difficult sectors. During 1954 a number of our most active members have been killed by the Communists or have otherwise died in the performance of their duties.

The fight continues against the Communist effort to dominate Italian labor. The Italian Confederation of Labor Unions is gaining in strength and is determined to press forward tirelessly to win the majority of workers in our country to the banner of free trade unionism. We recognize that the fight we are waging is not an easy fight, but we are confident that ultimately democratic trade unionism will triumph in Italy over the forces of Communist darkness.

WHAT THEY SAY

George M. Harrison, president, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks-Act-



ing alone, the individual worker has no effective voice and but little opportunity to induce the employer to protect his economic interests or to improve his work-

ing conditions. The worker has only one means to establish his citizenship in industry, and that is to match the bargaining powers of the employers. This can be accomplished only by organizing a union. The union speaks with the voice of all its members. Employers cannot ignore the protests of unions as they may the protests of the individual. Unions can insist upon equitable compensation for the services rendered, the elimination of dangerous and unhealthful working conditions and the correction of injustices. Collective bargaining has as its immediate objective the promotion of the well-being of the workers, but its broader and more profound purpose is to provide a democratic force within industry to arrive at a fair division of the fruits of the joint efforts of workers and owners-to establish for workers citizenship in industry. When management is free to determine policies solely in the interest of the owners, failure to give adequate consideration to the employes' interests is an inevitable condition.

Nancy Pratt, A. F. of L. staff, Washington—October 21 marked the 106th



anniversary of the credit union movement. This date has special meaning for the more than 7,000,-000 people who have sought the aid of credit unions to help make

ends meet in times of personal emergencies. Many credit union members swear by this type of organization for the time and money they have saved and the security they have gained by

being able to finance consumer purchases at low rates and without red tape through a non-profit organization, rather than being forced to rely on small-loan sharks or high-cost installment credit plans. Credit unions are generally made up of members of some group having a common purpose. Members pool their savings by purchasing shares in the credit union. From this accumulated capital, loans are made to members for any reasonable purposes, such as medical expenses, home repairs or education. Credit unions are democratic. Memhers participate in their operation. A. F. of L. unions have established and are now operating 476 credit unions. Many others, while not officially labor-sponsored, were largely sparked by local union efforts.

Peter Henle, A. F. of L. assistant director of research—The Department



of Commerce estimates that total personal savings in all forms dropped nearly 10 per cent between the first and second quarters of this year. In human terms

this means that unemployment and reduced incomes have forced thousands of families, who had tried to protect themselves against family emergencies, into financial insecurity. It means that widows will have nothing to fall back on when the family breadwinner dies or becomes incapacitated. Many families who have been saving up to buy homes or cars will not be able to make those purchases. For some it will mean that long-deferred medical care or surgical treatment will have to be postponed still longer. This is what has been happening to families who had savings to fall back on. The millions of families without any savings are in an even worse plight. Their only course, when faced with loss of jobs or reduced pay envelopes, has been to go into debt or to cut necessary family expenditures to the bone. Yet the Federal Reserve Board reports that

early this year 26 per cent of all families had zero savings, while another 28 per cent had savings of less than \$500. Deflation of the small savings cushion that some families had and the debts other families have had to incur place the entire economy on a more precarious footing.

Selma Borchardt, Washington representative, American Federation of



Teachers—We all know that our nation is confronted with a dangerous rate of juvenile delinquency. The number of youngsters appearing before our courts is greater than at

any other time in our history. This social sickness profoundly disturbs us as teachers. We who live with problem children and with pupil problems day by day recognize, in this period of changing concepts of personal, group and community discipline, that the loss of what were once the accepted restraints is of great importance. We, with other trade unionists, believe that the child's home, his family, his community are all a part of what makes him what he is. First of all, the family dining-room table is passing. An increasingly large number of homes actually do not have a family dining-room table. In fact, they don't have a dining-room or even a kitchen table. The catch-as-catchcan food supply for youth, from can to stove to "gulp down," plays a part in the loss of family discipline. Then the community no longer knows its own residents. Community restraints based on a desire to be well regarded in the neighborhood no longer prevail. We wish parents could have more time for and with their children - preferably together, as a family. We wish teachers would have small enough classes to enable them to study and know each child closely. A good housing program is an essential part of a program to combat juvenile delinquency. So are family security and adequate recrestional facilities. That brings us back again to the need for more teachers. more classrooms and more federal aid to get both. Hence we should welcome periodic reports from our A.F.T. locals on what they are doing to help keep youths on better roads.

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KIDS ARE CITIZENS

"C OME on, girls, if you're coming with us," Ned called to Shirley and Alice.

"Where are you boys headed?"

"Down to the election headquarters," Jack answered.

"I promised Dad I would get there as soon as I could after school," Ned added. "He wants some of us to pass out handbills or cards or something after school. Want to join us?"

"Oh, let's!" exclaimed Joan. "We can stop by our house and leave our books."

"I'll have to call home, too," Alice told them.

"Me, too," said Shirley. "You boys go on. We'll join you in fifteen minutes."

"We'll be at headquarters about half an hour," said Ned. If you aren't there by then, we'll get started."

"Please hurry," said Jack. "V have to be through by dark."

"Joan, tell Mother where I am, too," her brother Russ told her as he went up the street with the other boys.

The boys hurried on to the campaign headquarters on Main Street. There were big banners across the front of the building. Inside several men and women were busily at work. Both telephones were in use. There was an atmosphere of excitement.

The boys put down their books and asked Ned's father, Mr. Arnold, what they could do.

"Dad, Jack, Russ and I can pass out those handbills like you mentioned at breakfast," said Ned. "In a little while some of the girls are coming down to help us. They had to call their homes and leave their books and so on."

"But it won't take them long," Russ said. "Give us the instructions, Mr. Arnold. We'll pass them on to the girls when they get here."

"What we would like done this afternoon," said Mr. Arnold, "is for you to take these handbills and leave them at every house in this area." He indicated the location on a large map. "We want everyone to know what can-

didates the Central Labor Union is supporting in the election."

"What about these little cards?" asked Russ.

"The candidates themselves are using those for the most part, but you might take a few in case anyone should ask for them. Now, boys, I want to impress it upon you, don't toss these things on the lawns or porches. We don't want to litter the neighborhood, nor do we want to waste our material. If you can, knock or ring the bells and give them to the householder. You know most of the people. If no one is home, put the handbills in the doorway or slip them under the handle."

Before the boys had finished getting their instructions and supplies, the girls came rushing in.

"We're ready to get out the vote," proclaimed Alice.

"Know the records of your candidates!" Shirley said, waving a handbill she had taken from Ned.

"Girls, that is just the enthusiasm we want," Mr. Arnold told them.

For a few moments everybody studied the map of the territory they were to canvass. Then they split up into teams.

"We can cover every house on every block this side of the park in an hour," said Jack as they started out.

Alice and Ned turned to the right at Spruce Street. Russ and Shirley took the opposite side of the same street. Joan and Jack took the street to the left of Spruce.

"I feel sort of scared," said Alice as she rang the first doorbell.

However, this feeling left her as the ring was answered by her mother's friend, Mrs. Jason.

"I'm passing out election material," said Alice. "We would like for you to look it over and give our candidates your consideration." She handed the literature to Mrs. Jason.

"Thank you, Alice. It's wonderful to see young people taking a part in civic affairs."

At the next house there was no response to their knocking so Ned

tucked the handbills under the door handle.

The next place was a house set back from the street. In the yard an elderly man was raking a few leaves.

"How do you do," the young people greeted him.

"Pretty fair for an old man. What can I do for you?"

"We're passing out campaign information," responded Ned.

"Election workers, eh?" said the elderly man with a smile. "Say, are you Bill Arnold's boy?"

"Yes, sir," Ned, trying to place his questioner. Then he said: "And you're Mr. Oglethorpe, the banker, aren't you?"

"That's right. Now what have you here?"

Ned gave him the literature, saying: "These are the candidates we're supporting."

"Whether we support the same candidates or not," Mr. Oglethorpe said, "it does my heart good to see boys and girls taking an interest in your duties as young Americans. Some of us older ones could take lessons from you. It's important to get out the vote."

Everywhere the boys and girls stopped there was much the same response.

"Why, I almost feel like a heroine," said Alice with a laugh as the six of them returned to headquarters and recounted their experiences. "People are more interested in voting than I imagined."

"And they all think it's a little unusual that we kids are interested," said Jack. "Don't they know that we want and need good government?"

"We're part of the community,"

"Why shouldn't we be interested in who is elected?" Russ asked.

"In other words," said Mr. Arnold, as he collected the few pieces of undistributed campaign material from his young friends, "you believe in our American system of free elections."

"Yes, and we're willing to work to get out the vote."



ON Election Day you can exercise your precious privilege as a citizen of a free nation and vote for members of Congress who will pass the laws our country needs and refuse to pass laws that are harmful to the many. Working people need more friends in the Senate and more friends in the House. The way to win those additional friends is through the exercise of the power of the ballot. For your own sake, for America's sake, study the records of the opposing candidates and then, on Election Day, do your part as a citizen by going to the polls.